

Jordan Times

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OIC mediator to fly to Gulf

BANJUL (R) — Gambian President Dawda Jawara, chairman of the Islamic peace committee, said Monday he would fly to the Gulf region later this week with proposals to end the current flare-up in the Iran-Iraq war. He told Reuters he would leave Banjul on Friday and was due to meet Shafuddin Pirzada, secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), in Jeddah on Sunday. Mr. Jawara said he would stay in the Gulf region until the end of this month and planned to discuss his proposals with Iranian and Iraqi officials to end what he described as a serious and disturbing turn in the conflict. He said he had recently been in contact with officials of both countries through their accredited representatives in Gambia as well as with officials of other nations concerned by the conflict. He declined to say at what level the contacts had been made but said he believed the proposals would be "very interesting" to both Baghdad and Tehran. "I feel there is a chance for peace," Mr. Jawara said.

Britain closes W. Beirut embassy

BEIRUT (R) — The British embassy in west Beirut closed Monday after a shadowy group claimed credit for kidnapping two Britons and an American journalist last week. British Ambassador David Miers told Reuters the embassy's main west Beirut office had suspended operations until it was clear "our security situation is as efficient as it can be." He hoped it would be reopened soon. Britain has an embassy office in east Beirut, but Mr. Miers said there were no immediate plans to shift all operations to the mainly Christian sector of the capital. A caller who said he spoke for the militant "Islamic Jihad" organisation Sunday telephoned a statement to foreign news agencies saying the group was working to purge west Beirut of foreigners engaged in "subversive activities." Speaking at his west Beirut residence, where Lebanese army troops Monday reinforced their guard, Mr. Miers said the statement "appears to be carefully worded, and I think one should read it quite carefully."

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Soviet diplomat missing in Delhi

NEW DELHI (AP) — A Soviet diplomat has been missing since he went jogging in a local park Sunday morning, police said Monday. Igor Gezha, 37, third secretary in the Soviet embassy's information department, did not return home after his usual morning run at Lodi Gardens, police said. His car was found parked outside the park. "We have informed all the police stations, hospitals and airports for Mr. Gezha," said B.K. Gupta, deputy commissioner of police. "I don't expect any foul play because as yet there is no evidence of it. But I have not come to any definite conclusion yet."

Rajavi: Iran plans mass executions

PARIS (AP) — Iranian opposition leader Massoud Rajavi said Monday Iranian officials intend to execute up to 2,000 political prisoners in the coming weeks then cover up the massacre with claims the victims were killed in aerial bombings by Iraq, his organisation said Monday. The Mujahadeen-e-Khalq of Iran said the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has executed more than 60 political prisoners since the beginning of March. Mr. Rajavi said he sent a telegram to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar asking him to try to stop the executions through every possible means, the Mujahadeen said in a statement.

Morocco to spend \$1 billion on arms

ABAT (R) — King Hassan has said Morocco will spend \$1 billion in arms in the next five years, peaking in the Western Sahara where Morocco has been fighting guerrillas for nine years over independence, the king said the army must be modernised and made ready for a long combat. He also announced new plans to exploit mineral deposits to help finance military spending.

French-Saudi arms deal reported

PARIS (R) — Saudi Arabia's deputy defence minister, Prince Abdul Rahman, Monday began an official visit to France during which industry and Arab sources expect him to conclude a deal to buy more than 40 Mirage-2000 multirole combat planes. French and Saudi officials would not comment on the deal, but the industry sources said negotiations are in the final stages, and the Arab sources said terms being discussed included delivery of 77 million barrels of oil over three years in part payment.

Gorbachev 'studying' visit to U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — New Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is considering a possible visit to the United Nations this year, a U.N. spokesman said Monday. spokesman Francois Giulianni said secretary-general Javier Perez de Cuellar raised the idea in an indirect way when he and Mr. Gorbachev met for half an hour in Moscow last Thursday. Giulianni said that because the United Nations belongs to its member governments, the secretary-general could not appropriately issue a formal invitation.

Hussein, Mubarak fly to Baghdad for urgent talks

Egyptian leader briefs King on visit to U.S., Europe

By Lamia K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held three hours of talks in Amman Monday and flew to Baghdad where they held an urgent meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war in the light of the recent escalation of fighting along the battlefield.

President Mubarak arrived in Amman at noon Monday and held talks with the King on results of his recent visit to Washington where he was faced with an American reluctance to accept his proposals for direct talks between the American administration and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Well-informed sources told the Jordan Times that during the talks Mr. Mubarak gave "a more positive image" than the one that has been so far projected regarding the American position on his proposals and on the Jordan-PLO accord. The sources said that President Mubarak told the Jordanian government that the U.S. administration "has shown more flexibility" concerning the Arab point of view on finding a peaceful settlement for the Palestinian question.

The surprise departure of both leaders to Baghdad, in about three hours after President Mubarak's arrival in Amman, has managed to shift the focus from the main goal of the visit to discuss Jordanian-Egyptian coordinated efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian question based on a joint accord reached on Feb. 11 recent visit to Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Upon the two leaders' arrival in Baghdad, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said their visit "comes in the wake of the grave developments in the Iran-Iraq war."

Diplomatic sources quoted by Reuters said King Hussein and President Mubarak would hold urgent talks with President Hussein on ending the Iran-Iraq war. The significance of the two leaders' visit to Baghdad lies in its timing as well as in the fact that it marked the first visit ever by an Egyptian president to Iraq since the signing of the American-sponsored Camp David peace accord between Israel and Egypt in 1979.

Fighting on the Iraqi-Iranian front reached its peak this week and the two sides were engaged in a spate of retaliatory shelling. But on Monday, and just a few hours from the Jordanian and Egyptian leaders' departure for Baghdad, the Iraqi military command declared "victory" against the Iranian forces in the southern marshlands.

Despite the non-existence of formal diplomatic ties between Egypt and Iraq the Egyptian government has been offering both logistic and material support for Iraq in its war against Iran ever since President Mubarak succeeded late Anwar Sadat in 1981.

International agencies dispatched from Cairo on Monday quoted Western diplomats as saying that so far Egypt has supplied Iraq with \$1 billion worth of arms. Palace sources in Amman told the Associated Press that in their visit, both King Hussein and President Mubarak would discuss Iraq's military needs in the light of the increased fighting. However, in their replies to reporters' questions prior to their departure for Baghdad, both King Hussein and President Mubarak revealed nothing about their intention to visit the Iraqi capital nor on its objectives. The destination of both leaders was only disclosed to reporters after the planes took off from Amman military airport and consequently reporters' questions focused on the Jordanian-Egyptian talks.

In reply to questions on the contents and results of the talks, King Hussein said both Jordan and Egypt are on "the same path" and follow the "same line". "We hope that we (Egypt and Jordan) would be able to follow up our causes in a most satisfactory way," the King said. He did not elaborate.

President Mubarak said that his recent American and European tour aimed at pushing forward the peace process in the Middle East and stressing that "the Jordanian-PLO accord remains the corner stone which we all have been waiting for."

Mr. Mubarak also said that during his talks to Washington he had explained the Arab point of perception in the peace process and had stressed the need for the participation of the PLO in any peace negotiations.

Statements by senior White House officials including President Ronald Reagan himself reflected coolness and reluctance to accept Mr. Mubarak's suggestions for talks between the U.S. and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. They reiterated previous American conditions that the PLO recognise the right of Israel to exist before the U.S. holds talks with the organisation.

But on Monday in Amman, Mr. Mubarak seemed undaunted by the American reaction to his efforts to establish a dialogue between the American administration and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. "It is very important to continue the dialogue with U.S. in order to reach positive results," he told reporters.

President Mubarak, who was accompanied by his Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, Transport and Communications and Sea Transport Minister Suleiman Moutawali, Minister of Information Safwat Al

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His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Monday hold talks in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Jordanian and Egyptian delegations (Petra photo)

Masri calls for positive American response

King to visit Washington if U.S. follows up Jordan-PLO accord

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein might visit Washington if the United States reacts positively to the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a formula for joint action towards settling the Palestinian problem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Monday. Mr. Masri, speaking at a press conference, said he was in Washington to arrange the possible visit by King Hussein and to learn the results of the visit by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last week. Mr. Mubarak urged President Ronald Reagan's administration to realise the significance of the Jordan-PLO agreement.

"We achieved something with the PLO," Mr. Masri told the news conference, held at Foreign Policy magazine. "The PLO is talking about peaceful agreement, peaceful negotiations."

The Jordan-PLO agreement means the PLO has given implicit recognition of Israel's right to exist and explicit recognition can follow if the peace process advances, Mr. Masri said.

"We are convinced that self-determination for the Palestinian people can exist with the principle of the acceptance of the existence of Israel," he said. "We have been positive and we expect the others to take a positive step."

PLO acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242

"won't be such a problem if the PLO sees a positive response" to the Feb. 11 accord, he said. The United States has refused to meet with the PLO until it accepts 242, under which, in exchange for peace with the Arabs, Israel would return Arab territory occupied during the 1967 war. Jordan, he said, accepts 242 and Israel's right to exist. "But Israel is occupying Arab territory, not only the West Bank, but it is occupying other territories," Mr. Masri said. "It is not a matter of recognising Israel or not recognising Israel. It is how much we can get of our land" in exchange for recognising Israel, he said.

Arab-Israeli agreement will take a number of steps and must begin with initial negotiating positions that can be modified later, he said. "It is important to do things slowly. It's a long way and there are many wild cards."

The Jordan-PLO agreement is starting a process in the area, a process towards peace," Mr. Masri said. "This process needs to be reciprocated by all parties."

The Middle East is "an area of lost opportunities," he said. "This is an important opportunity and we hope that we will not lose it. We really believe, earnestly believe, that maybe this is the last opportunity."

Mr. Masri, who meets Secretary of State George Shultz on Wednesday, added: "I will demand an

active role for the American government."

"If we don't do anything about (the Palestinian question) the whole area will be radicalised," he said.

Mr. Masri said that an agreement by the United States to meet a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and a move by Israel would encourage further positive moves by the PLO.

"We have been positive. We expect others to take a positive step," he said.

If Israel or the United States reciprocated the PLO move towards peace, he said, "maybe (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat can make another positive step, and so on."

He said he was preparing for a future trip to Washington by King Hussein but gave no date and indicated that it would depend on Washington's talks with other Arab leaders.

In an interview with the New York Times published Sunday, King Hussein said he could move no further towards reviving the peace process unless the United States agreed to meet a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. "We must not miss the opportunity," the King said. "This is the last chance."

Mr. Schultz said Sunday in a television interview Washington was prepared to act but added: "We

Iraqis celebrate victory in battle for marshlands

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Monday its forces had defeated an Iranian offensive in the marshlands of southeast Iraq and residents of the Iraqi capital poured into the streets to celebrate the victory despite a huge explosion that rocked central Baghdad.

A military announcement said Iraqi forces had the "greatest battle in the history of the Iran-Iraq war" and the battlefield, the Huwazeh marshlands where Iran launched a major offensive last Monday, was littered with "thousands of (Iranian) corpses left as carrion for the vultures."

Iraqi forces "fought for several days and nights without a break, inch by inch, trench by trench, from one position to another, inflicting the most severe losses ever," Defence Minister Adnan Kheirallah, commander of Iraq's marshland counter-offensive, said

in a congratulatory telegram to President Saddam Hussein. Baghdad Radio and television said that the "evil Iranians have been crushed. The (Iraqi) believers have achieved victory in a unique epic of warfare."

"Shout with us 'Allah Akbar' (God is Great), shout it on streets, at homes, schools, factories and villages, and rejoice in this victory," a high command statement urged.

It said that the Iranians on March 11 crossed the border into the Huwazeh marshes with "more than eight divisions, after preparations that lasted more than a year."

"We confronted them with valiant men and, in six days of fierce and unrelenting battles, day and night, victory was ours, praised be Allah for this victory," the command said.

Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nayef Jasseem said Sunday that a total of 15,000 Iranian soldiers were killed overnight Saturday and Sunday.

Journalists from Baghdad were allowed into the area Sunday for the first time since the battle broke out, but it was not possible to say whether Iranian troops still held parts of the marshes.

Simultaneous with the Iraqi announcement, Iran claimed it had captured parts of an important oil region in Iraq, but indicated that it had stopped its week-long offensive in the marshlands.

An Iranian military command said Sunday Iran had killed or wounded 12,000 Iraqi troops and taken 3,000 prisoner since it launched its latest offensive.

(Continued on page 2)

Israelis blow up house in Lebanese village

QASMIEH BRIDGE, Lebanon (AP) — An Israeli mechanised division searched the homes of villagers and blew up a house belonging to a commando suspect's family in South Lebanon Monday, U.N. officials said.

The six-hour operation took place in Maroub, about 10 kilometres southeast of this Israeli "front line" position on the Litani River where soldiers were conducting a new position after repeated resistance attacks.

In the eastern sector, Israeli soldiers started dismantling equipment and buildings on Jebel Barouk, a strategic mountain overlooking Syrian army positions in the Bekaa Valley, in preparation for the second stage of a troop withdrawal (See page 2).

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday that Israeli troops would be "mostly" out of Lebanon in eight to 10 weeks, when the second phase of the three-step withdrawal was expected to be complete.

U.N. spokesman Timur Goksel said about 150 Israeli soldiers entered the village of Maroub about 6 a.m. and rounded up about 100 men for questioning in a village school.

"They searched most of the houses and used small explosives to blow open the door of the school," said Goksel. He said Israeli soldiers told French peacekeepers they were looking for the director of the school and when they did not find him they destroyed his father's house.

Residents and French soldiers helped get the family furniture out before the house was blown up. Goksel said. The French commander on the scene protested to the Israelis that the action was unnecessary since no weapons were found in the house, he said. But Israeli officers informed the French that the house belonged to a commando suspect they were seeking, Goksel added.

Gulf Arab states, U.N. seek way to end spiralling Iran-Iraq war

RIYADH (R) — Six Gulf Arab foreign ministers resumed talks Monday to map out a formula to help end the escalating war between Iran and Iraq amid concern over its possible repercussions around the Gulf.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah was quoted by the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency as saying after Monday morning's session the ministers had discussed ways to end the fighting and had been in touch with Iraq and Algeria.

Sheikh Sabah, whose country has urged a ceasefire, did not say whether a fresh initiative to end the fighting was under way. Algeria has been involved in previous peace bids.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Algiers Monday with a message for President Chadli Benjedid from the Iranian president, the Algerian news agency said.

The Tunisian news agency TAP had earlier reported that a message from Mr. Benjedid was delivered in Baghdad Sunday to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq by

Algerian Health Minister Djamel Eddine Houhou.

No details of the contents of either message were disclosed.

Sheikh Sabah called Sunday for international efforts to end the conflict and said it was "spiralling into a perilous course and holds out grave possibilities for the Gulf."

The meeting here — grouping the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and the UAE — was scheduled before the latest flare-up in the war, which has seen some of its fiercest fighting over the last 10 days.

At the United Nations, meanwhile, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was doing his utmost to bring about a moratorium on attacks against civilian targets in the Gulf war, his spokesman said Monday.

"It is clear this has failed for the time being," spokesman Francois Giulianni said, referring to a series of recent assaults by both Iraq and Iran that have resulted in civilian casualties.

eral conferred Monday with Iran's deputy foreign minister, Hossein Kazempour-Ardebili, and would also see Riyadh Al Qaysi, the Iraqi delegate.

He said that Mr. Perez de Cuellar also discussed the Gulf crisis with Blaise Rabetafika, president of the U.N. Security Council, who was weighing the prospects for a further attempt by that 15-nation body to effect a ceasefire.

On behalf of the council members, who met on the crisis for seven hours behind closed doors, Mr. Rabetafika issued a statement last Friday night expressing their deep concern over the scale of the renewed hostilities.

Giuliani said Monday that Mr. Perez de Cuellar and Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, the special U.N. emissary for the Gulf, discussed the possibility of a new peace mission by Mr. Palme when they met in Moscow last Wednesday after the funeral for President Konstantin Chernenko.

But it was agreed that the time was not ripe for another mission now, Giuliani said.

Berri, Karami warn Falangist rebels to back down from revolt

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese Muslim leaders Monday warned rebel, mostly Christian, Falangist militiamen to back down from a revolt against President Amin Gemayel, saying their action threatened to partition Lebanon.

Shiite Muslim leader Nabih Berri said if the week-long revolt by commanders of the "Lebanese Forces" militia continued, it would either result in the country's "canonisation" or a powerful reaction by Lebanon's other factions.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami said the rebels were trying to dismember and destroy Lebanon and urged them to consider the consequences seriously before leading their community "along the way of suffering."

The tough Muslim reactions came as efforts to resolve the rebellion peacefully appeared to be running into difficulties.

Talks among leaders of the Falangist Party loyal to Mr. Gemayel to discuss a proposed solution continued into the evening after earlier reports that the crisis would be over by noon.

The proposed solution discussed by a joint meeting of the Falangist politburo and central committee includes a rebel demand for a parliamentary-style "Christian national council" to represent Christian opinion independently of Mr. Gemayel and the Falangist Party.

The rebels, headed by pro-Israeli commander Samir Geagea, say they are trying to restore an independent power of decision for the Christian community.

Syria and Muslim leaders say the rebels have links with Israel and are trying to sabotage the reconciliation process that is intended to remove the basic causes of civil war by giving Muslim majority a fairer share of political power.

The leader of the mostly Druze Progressive Socialist Party, Mr. Walid Junblatt said Sunday Muslim forces should unite to "break the necks" of the Falangist rebels.

Mr. Berri, speaking at a press conference, demanded that Mr. Gemayel take a clear stand against the rebels. "Any compromise will at best depreciate the dignity and power of the presidency," he said.

As Mr. Berri spoke, police said pro-Geagea militiamen clashed in gunbattles with the Lebanese army and leftist militiamen on the outskirts of South Lebanon's port city of Sidon.

It was the first such clash since the Geagea followers seized most of the mostly Christian hinterland in northern Lebanon last Tuesday and the first serious confrontation in Sidon since the Israeli army withdrew last Feb. 16.

Reporters in Sidon said the clash erupted at 1 p.m. (1100 GMT), pitting Shi'ite and Sunni Muslim militiamen against Fal-

angist irregulars loyal to Mr. Geagea. The rebels were from "Lebanese Forces" barracks in the nearby villages of Haaliye and Oanaya, the reporters said.

Beirut Radio stations said the Lebanese army garrison in Rosan was involved in the fighting against the rebels. But reporters in the city said the army dispatched four tanks and two truckloads of troops to disengage the combatants.

The two-hour battle with heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades tapered into sporadic sniping after the army intervention, the reporters said by telephone from Sidon.

In Athens, Chadi Klibi, the secretary-general of the Arab League, meanwhile accused Israel of conspiring to stop reconciliation in Lebanon.

Referring to the Falangist revolt, Mr. Klibi said:

"(It)... is the result of an Israeli conspiracy whose aim is to prevent national reconciliation, and to damage Lebanon's legitimate effort to apply a defence programme, restore stability and calm and reconstruct the country."

Addressing a conference on Greek-Arab economic cooperation, Mr. Klibi added that "if Israel is delaying its... withdrawal (from Lebanon), that if because it hopes that this will have negative effects on Lebanon's political and social system."

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International airlines cancel flights to Iran

LONDON (Agencies) — A number of international airlines said Monday they had decided to suspend flights to Tehran but would continue to fly to Baghdad following an Iraqi proclamation Sunday that the Iranian airspace was a "prohibited war zone."

British Airways, Alitalia and Swissair were among the first to announce their decision to suspend flights to Tehran, followed by Air India, Lufthansa, Turkish Airlines and Austrian Airlines.

Iraq's air blockade would match an "exclusion zone" it imposed around Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal last January. Iraq says it imposed the sea blockade to cut Iran's oil export income.

An Iraqi military spokesman warned in a statement distributed by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) on Sunday that after 8 p.m. Tuesday (1700 GMT) any plane "that passes through Iranian airspace will become a possible target in view of the difficulty of distinguishing targets."

In London, spokesman Norman Lorne said British Airways cancelled flights to Tehran and Baghdad on Sunday, and had not decided whether flights to Iran would continue.

Swissair cancelled a Zurich-to-Tehran flight Sunday night, said a spokesman. The status of the next flight, scheduled to leave Thursday, "depends on the situation," he said.

Two or three flights daily to the Far East would have to be rerouted to avoid Iranian airspace, said the spokesman, who commented on condition he not be identified.

The Italian Airline Alitalia said last week it was suspending flights to both Baghdad and Tehran.

Iran Air said flights from Lon-

don and Athens to Tehran would take off as scheduled.

The West German Airline Lufthansa said Monday it had suspended flights to Tehran with immediate effect.

"All flights to Tehran are suspended until the end of the winter timetable on March 30," Lufthansa spokesman Willi Vogler told Reuters.

Mr. Vogler later said that a special, unscheduled return flight due to leave Frankfurt for Tehran Monday evening had also been cancelled.

Lufthansa operates three scheduled return flights a week to Tehran and two to Baghdad, all from Frankfurt.

Mr. Vogler said Lufthansa planned to continue flights to Baghdad, though the situation could change Monday.

The next flights were to have left Frankfurt for Tehran at 2210 GMT Monday night and for Baghdad at 1555 GMT Tuesday, he said.

In Zurich, a Swissair spokesman said the airline planned to go ahead with its flight to Baghdad later Monday, but would be monitoring developments in the Gulf war before departure.

In Paris, Air France said it would not decide immediately whether to maintain flights to Tehran.

"We are operating one flight a week which leaves Paris on Saturdays. This gives us plenty of time to see how things are going to

develop," an Air France spokesman told Reuters.

In Vienna, Austrian Airlines decided to discontinue their flights to Tehran from Tuesday, an airline spokesman said.

In the Netherlands, a spokesman for KLM said the airline planned to continue its once-weekly flight to the Iraqi capital Baghdad via Istanbul.

KLM flights to Tehran were stopped about four years ago because of what the spokesman called the "political situation" in Iran.

Air India has suspended its scheduled flight to Baghdad, the Iraqi capital Monday because of the closure of the Baghdad International Airport for unknown reasons, IRNA, the official Iranian News Agency, reported from the Indian capital.

The agency, monitored here, said it contacted Air India officials at New Delhi Airport and was told that flight no. 801 which was to fly from Bombay to Baghdad was cancelled after receiving a telex from Baghdad saying the airport was closed.

Kuwait Airways said in Kuwait Monday it is continuing to fly to Baghdad and has no plans to suspend any flights because of the upsurge in the Iran-Iraq war.

"We are not suspending flights to Baghdad. There have been no stoppages," a Kuwait Airways spokeswoman told Reuters.

Egypt's national airline, Egyptair, has cancelled three flights to Baghdad in the past 24 hours and is considering suspending service because of increased Gulf war fighting, a company spokesman said Monday.

"We are looking at the situation on a day-to-day basis," he said.



SHOW OF SUPPORT: A large number of the Iraqi community in Amman Monday gathered at the Iraqi embassy to express their joy at the great victories the Iraqi army has gained against the Iranian regime following the latest battles at the

Iraq-Iran front. The Iraqi community in Jordan later sent a cable of congratulations to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein praising the Iraqi army's heroic stand against Iranian troops.

Agriculture in Jordan better than in Israel, Herzog says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian farmers are doing better economically than the Israelis working on the occupied side of the River Jordan, and the Jordanian side of the river is cultivated "very intensively and is Jordan's vegetable garden," according to the Israeli President Chaim Herzog.

Mr. Herzog made these comments at a meeting with Israeli farmers representing the Jordan Valley. His comments were carried by a report appearing recently in the Jerusalem Post.

The Israeli president said that "regrettably, the Israeli part of the Jordan Valley has not been developed at the same rate as the Jordanian side."

"The main reason is a different set of priorities," Mr. Herzog said.

He added that "I hope we will reach the same level (of cultivation) on our side... I will do all I can to help you," he promised the Israeli settler-farmers at "Ma'ale Ephraim" settlement.

Mr. Herzog's remarks followed complaints from settlers that they have received less aid because so much has been invested in areas densely populated by Arabs elsewhere in the West Bank.

The settlers, who appealed for the president's help, complained that officials are not responsive to their requests. "There is enough land and water here to turn this area into a second California, but we do not feel anyone is listening," a farmer at Phasael settlement said.

PLO aide says Egypt's plan has positive aspects

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — A senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was quoted in the Senegalese press Monday as reaffirming the necessity for the group to be a full partner in any negotiations for a Middle East peace.

Mr. Salameh Al Hirfi, adviser for African affairs to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, welcomed what he said were the positive aspects of Egypt's recent initiative.

"We appreciate the positive aspects of (Egyptian) President Hosni Mubarak's plan for peace in the Middle East," Mr. Hirfi was quoted as saying.

"But we reaffirm that nothing can be done without the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, that is the PLO with all the concerned parties and the permanent members of the (U.N.) Security Council."

Mr. Hirfi also was quoted as saying African rejection of the Egyptian plan was not surprising and demonstrated that the PLO and the Arab countries were the only ones who could work together to bring about a settlement.

2 reported killed in Saudi hijack

BAHRAIN (R) — Two people were killed in a brief hijack drama at Doha Airport Sunday involving a Saudi Arabian Boeing 737 commandeered on a flight from Jeddah to Kuwait, Gulf aviation sources said Monday.

Earlier, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said the hijacker, a grenade-carrying North Yemeni named as Ahmad Alawi Al-Muqbil, 23, was shot dead by special Saudi Security Forces at Doha Airport and that none of the 76 passengers had been hurt. There was no official confirmation that a second person had been killed.

He added that even Mr. Gemayel himself would try to avoid Syrian intervention on his behalf, since if he did not, "he might lose a major part of his basis of legitimacy within the Lebanese body politic."

"So (Gemayel) will try to come to terms with his group, maybe making some concessions to them, and while he is clearly helped by the Syrian threat toward Samir Geagea and his group, he might not go so far as to invite them in," the source added.

Israel has warned Syria against deploying its forces in areas the Israeli army is now evacuating in its withdrawal from Lebanon.

But it has not announced its policy toward a possible Syrian army move into Beirut from current positions close to the city.

Other Israeli officials indicated earlier on Sunday that Israel would not intervene if Syria did move against Geagea's rebel forces.

David Kimche, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, said in radio interview that Israel was watching Syrian moves for any danger to its own security, but so far "we have no need to act in this matter."

Another Israeli official said after taking part in Sunday's cabinet meeting that he did not believe the spill in the Falangist ranks would affect Israel and that it had not even been discussed in the cabinet.

"Let them fight and solve their own problems," said the official who spoke on condition he was not identified.

Israel also denied Syrian accusations that it was backing Geagea and Houbeka in their revolt against Mr. Gemayel, including description of them in the Syrian newspaper Tishrin as "Lebanese Zionists."

Cabinet Secretary Yossi Beilin said Israel has not had any contact with either side, while the military source said that although Geagea's forces might be using weapons originally supplied by Israel, "I believe even the Syrians know there is not any direct Israeli involvement in it."

Israel extended its original 1982 invasion in order to help the Falangist form a pro-Israeli government in Beirut.

But Mr. Gemayel, elected to the presidency after the assassination of the president-elect, his brother Bashir, gradually swung toward Syria after Israel's withdrawal from Beirut. Under Syrian pressure, he abrogated the May 5, 1982, security agreement with Israel that would have enabled Israel to pull out of Lebanon with security guarantees for its border.

Israel is now carrying out the second stage of its withdrawal plan without any Lebanese security guarantees, and military sources said the army was preparing various plans for a narrow security strip north of the international border to prevent attacks.

The strip would be patrolled by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia, while Israeli troops would be able to cross the border to mount anti-resistance operations inside Lebanon.

Some Israeli officials, including former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, the original architect of the June 1982 invasion, want a strip as wide as 30 kilometres while others have said they believed a security zone would aggravate the hostility of the local population.

Israel Radio reported Monday that the Israeli army has started dismantling equipment and buildings from Jebel Barouk, a strategic look-out point in the eastern front of South Lebanon.

Leaders fly to Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

Sharif and Minister of Interior Major General Ahmad Rusdi.

The Egyptian delegation took part in the talks and left with two leaders for Baghdad. Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Ihab Wahbe also attended the talks.

The Jordanian side at the talks included His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oasein, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Ma'at, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar, Minister of Communications-Mohammad Al Zaben, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities and Acting Information Minister Taher Hikmat, Secretary General of the Royal Court Rajai Al Dajani and Jordanian Ambassador to Egypt Hussein Hamami.

Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat was absent from the talks and the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said he was sick and had to stay in bed for the past two days.

Iraqis celebrate marshlands victory

(Continued from page 1)

The tone and wording of the communiqué indicated Iran had halted its offensive, at least for the time being, without giving any clear indication as to its present front lines.

"Iranian forces were reported Sunday to have gained a toehold on the Baghdad-Basra road, apparently their main objective, but Iraq said they were thrown back."

Iran also said the explosion heard in Baghdad Monday was the result of an Iranian missile attack and pledged to turn Baghdad into a "ruin" if Iraq continued to strike at Iranian towns. But an anonymous caller told the AP in London that the "interior arrangement of the Arab Socialist Baath Party," presumably a dissident wing of the ruling party in Baghdad, was responsible for the explosion.

The blast hit a nearly-completed building which diplomats said was to have served as the new foreign ministry.

This was the third missile attack against Baghdad claimed by Iran since last Thursday. Iraq denied

the two earlier Iranian missile claims, on Thursday and Saturday, stating that two explosions in Baghdad on those days were caused by bombs planted by saboteurs and not by Iranian missiles.

The celebrations in Baghdad continued despite the explosion, with hundreds of women and school children carrying banners with victory slogans through the city centre.

The Iraqi News Agency INA, meanwhile, released a message from President Hussein to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi expressing willingness to halt attacks on civilian areas if Iran did the same and showed readiness to end the war.

"We wish to stress Iraq's willingness to stop military operations and reach a comprehensive, just and honourable settlement for the conflict and think effective and quick steps should be taken in this direction," he said in the message sent Saturday to Mr. Gandhi, current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement.

An envoy from the Indian leader arrived in Tehran Saturday

with a message appealing to both sides to end the conflict.

In Oman, U.N. General Assembly President Paul Lusaka said: "The situation seems to be getting worse every day... but we should all hope that the messages of peace which we convey through many appeals will soon be heard."

Saudi Arabia's Riyadh Radio, in a brief statement coinciding with a meeting in Riyadh of foreign ministers from six Gulf Arab states, called for an immediate end to the fighting and the start of peace talks.

The latest upsurge in fighting started two weeks ago after Iran accused Iraq of attacking an unfinished nuclear plant and a steel complex. Iran retaliated by shelling Basra, Iraq's second city, prompting further tit-for-tat strikes.

At the United Nations Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, in a letter to the Security Council Monday, called for a U.N. observer force to verify a ceasefire and withdrawal of troops to recognised borders in the Iran-Iraq war.

Masri urges U.S. role

(Continued from page 1)

want to see some ante put on the table by everybody... that's beginning to happen and that's a healthy process."

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres Sunday supported the U.S. refusal to "meet a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation without Israel, telling a television interviewer such a meeting would "create the illusion" that the United States would try to impose a peace solution on the Jewish state.

Following the talks with Mr. Masri, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy is to travel to the Middle East to assess developments first hand.

Mr. Masri's call on Monday for an active American role in Middle East peace efforts was echoed by Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali.

In Alexandria, Egypt, Dr. Ghali said "what is required from the United States is to play the role of a full partner in negotiations which should reach a comprehensive, lasting and just Middle East peace."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00... Koran
17:10... Cartoons
17:30... Children's programmes
18:10... Trauma Centre
18:40... Local Programme
19:25... Programme Review
19:40... News Summary
20:00... News in Arabic
20:35... Arabic Series
21:50... Programmes Review
22:00... Varieties Programme
23:00... News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:30 German Programme for Children
18:00... Billet Doux
19:00... News in French
19:30... News in Hebrew
20:00... News in Arabic
20:30... Star of the Family
21:00... Towards 2000
21:10... Coasted Enemy
22:00... News in English
22:15... Hardcastle and McCormick

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & party on 95.60 KHz. SW

07:00... Light Music
07:30... News Desk
08:00... Morning Show
10:00... News Summary
10:45... Morning Show Cont.
11:00... Pop Session Cont.
12:00... News Summary
12:45... Pop Session Cont.
13:00... News Summary
13:45... Pop Session Cont.
14:00... News Bulletin
14:10... Instruments
14:15... Country Music
15:00... Concert Hour
16:00... News Summary
16:05... Instruments
16:30... Old Favourites
17:00... Science Report
17:30... Pop Session
18:00... News Summary
18:45... Top Twenty
19:00... News Bulletin
19:30... Date with a Star
20:00... Evening Show
21:00... News Summary
21:45... Evening Show Cont.
22:00... News Summary
23:00... News Summary
23:57... Evening Show Headlines
14:00... Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

630, 720, 1413 KHz.

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Classical Guitar 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 24 Hours News Summary 07:30 New Ideas 07:40 Book Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Rock Salad 09:00 World News 09:05 24 Hours News Summary 09:30 Seven Wonders of the Modern World 09:45 Newsdesk U.K. 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Six of Old Age 10:30 The Elements of Music 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 What's New 12:00 News Summary followed by Discovery 12:30 The Arts 12:40 World News 12:45 News about Britain 13:15 Letter from London 13:25 Scotland this Week 13:30 Sports International 14:00 Radio Newsdesk 14:15 A Bach Celebration 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Recording of the Week 16:00 Outlook 16:15 In Spirit of Ourselves 17:00 Radio Newsdesk 17:15 A Jolly Good Show 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 Omnibus 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:05 Meridian 19:40 Scotland This Week 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Nature Notebook 20:40 The Farming World 21:00 Outlook: News Summary 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 That's Trid 22:00 World News 22:05 24 Hours News Summary 22:30 A Bach Celebration 23:00 News Summary Letter from London 23:10 Book Choice 23:15 Concert Hall 24:00 World News: The World Today 00:25 Scotland this Week 00:30 Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, SW 7200, 9565, 17740, 11925 and 13210 KHz.

06:00 VOA Morning: News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, Sports News at 30 minutes past the hour, 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Special English News and Features 19:00 Newsline America 21:30 Music USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 VOA World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of plastic art by the Jordanian artist Hani Joubert at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* An art exhibition by Anasam Ramadan at the University of Jordan library.

* An exhibition of historical photos from the East and West banks of Jordan at the University of Jordan library.

* Agricultural exhibition at the University of Jordan.

* A lecture on Axiom Hamlet by Dr. Mohammad Asfour from the English Department of the University of Jordan at 7:30 p.m. at the British Council.

VIDEO

* Video Theatre at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
American Centre Library 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Hays Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 67181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.A. 664251
Yannan Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Mesopotamia and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of

Jordan. Jabel Al Qaf (Circled Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Monarch, Jabel Lawleh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Service Clubs

Liass Amman Club: Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

Philly Philharmonic Club: Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club: Meetings on Wednesdays at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

Rotary Club: Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club, Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lawleh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) De la Salle, 661757.
Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 25383.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 77261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsi, 816534.

PRAYER TIMES

06:18... Fajr
05:41... Sunrise
11:45... Dhuhr
15:11... Asr
17:47... Maghreb
19:10... Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Pilgrims
— Welfare 3
— Arabian Gulf
— Normandia
— Pizzavalle

Amin Kawan and Sons Company, Tel. 22324 (six lines) at your service.

ARRIVALS

09:30... Aqaba (RJ)
09:30... Dubai (RJ)
09:45... Kuwait (RJ)
09:45... Jeddah (RJ)
09:45... Cairo (RJ)
09:55... Doha (RJ)
09:55... Bahrain (RJ)
10:00... Muscat, Dhaka (RJ)
10:20... Beirut (RJ)
10:20... Doha (RJ)
10:20... Riyadh (RJ)
10:25... Singapore, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30... Laraca, Damascus (RJ)
12:15... Doha (RJ)
12:15... Baghdad (RJ)
12:20... Kuwait (RJ)
14:40... New York, Vienna (RJ)
14:40... Amsterdam, Istanbul (RJ)
14:40... Rome, Damascus (RJ)
14:45... Zurich, Laraca (RJ)
14:45... Athens (RJ)
14:45... Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ)
16:18... Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES:

07:00... Beirut (RJ)
07:15... Aqaba (RJ)
11:15... Tripoli (RJ)
11:15... Cairo (RJ)
11:45... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:00... Paris, London (RJ)
12:15... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15... Riyadh, Dhaka (RJ)
12:15... Istanbul, Bucharest (RJ)
12:20... Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:30... Rome (RJ)
13:00... Bahrain (RJ)
14:30... Cairo (RJ)
14:30... Moscow (RJ)
15:40... Baghdad (RJ)
17:15... Kuwait (RJ)
19:30... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:45... Cairo (RJ)
21:10... Baghdad (RJ)
22:00... Bangkok (RJ)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Pilgrims
— Welfare 3
— Arabian Gulf
— Normandia
— Pizzavalle

Amin Kawan and Sons Company, Tel. 22324 (six lines) at your service.

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10:20... Doha (RJ)
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12:15... Baghdad (RJ)
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16:18... Baghdad (RJ)

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11:15... Tripoli (RJ)
11:15... Cairo (RJ)
11:45... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:00... Paris, London (RJ)
12:15... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15

Telephone bills to be distributed monthly

AMMAN (Petra) — Telephone bills will be distributed monthly in the near future instead of every three months, according to a decision reached at an expanded meeting of telecommunications officials chaired by Minister of Communications Mobammad Addoub Al Zaben.

The meeting was attended by the ministry's under secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif, Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director General Mobammad Shahid Ismail and the Postal Savings Fund Director General Abdullah Hawamdeh.

The committee approved the payment of accumulated telephone bills over four instalments; 30 per cent for home-telephone subscribers and 50 per

cent for others as a first instalment with the rest to be paid equally over a three-month period.

This arrangement applies to all telephone bills for 1984 which exceed JD 100 in case of home-subscribers and JD 300 for other subscribers.

The meeting also approved a new plan which aims to boost the services offered by the Postal Savings Fund through a campaign targeted towards students, housewives and workers.

The committee also approved the ministry's social security fund for 1984 which amounted to JD 126,268.

The fund has offered JD 58,000 in loans to 38 of the ministry's employees for housing projects.

Journalists council elects new committee members

AMMAN (Petra) — The newly-elected journalists council held its first session Monday under the chairmanship of its president Mahmoud Al Kayed, during which members were elected to administrative posts and to the committee.

Mr. Kamel Masaadeh was elected deputy president, Mr. Mobammad Dawdeh secretary, Mr. Fakhri Abu Hamdeh treasurer, Mr. Hassan Aqeel assistant secretary and chief of the legal committee, Mr. Sameeh Haddad assistant treasurer and chief of the

coordination committee, Mr. Abdul Salam Tarawneh chief of membership committee, Mobammad Sa'id secretary of the health medical insurance committee and Mr. Badr Abdul Haq chief of the cultural and social committee.

Mr. Ibrahim Sakejba was named chief of the disciplinary council with Mr. Rasheed Hassan and Mr. Hashem Khraisat as members.

Mr. Hamed Abadi, Mr. Yousef Abssi, Mr. Ahmad Husban and Mr. Fakhri Nimmri were named as members in the committee.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hassan inaugurates Al Hadid mosque.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday inaugurated the Sheikh Mohammad Mawer Al Hadid mosque in Amman, Minister of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Abed Khalaf Daoudieh delivered a speech on the concept of building mosques and moral values. Prince Hassan and those present then prayed as a group at the mosque, which is designed to accommodate 1,000 persons for prayers.

Arabiya meets Egyptian planning official

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Education Secretary General Abdul Latif Arabiyat Monday met with the visiting Egyptian First Under Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Medhat Abdul Aziz who is here to follow up the resolutions of the Jordanian-Egyptian joint committee. The Ministry of Education has completed a draft cultural agreement between Jordan and Egypt which is in the final stages and will be followed by executive programmes within the framework of bilateral scientific and cultural cooperation.

Welfare fund plans seminar on children

AMMAN (Petra) — The Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund QAJSWF will hold a seminar on the needs of children and youth in Jordan early in April, according to an announcement here. The announcement said that the participants in the four-day seminar will discuss working papers on the subject and will tackle medical, educational, social and cultural topics pertaining to the subject. Also, the meeting will assess the role of voluntary societies in meeting the needs of children.

UNRWA honours artistic children

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 32 Palestinian school children who excelled in international paintings and drawing competitions were honoured at a special ceremony in Amman Monday. The children took part in competitions organised in Korea, China and Finland and with the help of the educational department of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) were able to forward their work to these countries. UNRWA helped organise the competition for children in all its five educational areas in the East Bank of Jordan.



Her Majesty Queen Noor and Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar Monday present shields to Jordanian working women for their contribution to the labour force and the community (Petra photo)

Bashir calls for intensified international cooperation in rainfed agriculture

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Although the cultivation of crops under irrigation is of growing importance in Jordan, rainfed agriculture prevails, particularly in the highland areas of Jordan and in order to tackle the difficulties pertaining to the rainfed agriculture in arid zones, cooperation with regional and international organisations is necessary and should be intensified, according to Minister of Agriculture Mobammad Bashir.

The minister was speaking Monday at the opening of a conference and workshop on rainfed agriculture at the University of Jordan. The conference is organised by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the

Ministry of Agriculture. Delegates from many countries, including Syria, the United States, Egypt, Oman, Kuwait and other Arab countries, Pakistan and West Germany are taking part in the conference.

During the three-day conference, delegates will discuss topics important for the development of rainfed agriculture such as soil and water management, farming systems, grazing animals and the cultivation of crops particularly suitable for arid areas.

Information network

The central point of view in these discussions, however, will be the establishment of an information distribution network for research results on rainfed agriculture potential. Dr. Wilbour Thomas, director of the Near East Bureau of USAID said in his

speech in the opening session. The purpose of such a network would be to increase the quantity and quality of rainfed agriculture research and available information, he added.

The Ministry of Agriculture is supporting research in rainfed agriculture and is very interested in expanding the cooperation with regional and international organisations as well as in the introduction of technology from abroad, Mr. Bashir pointed out. Recently, a new library and a documentary centre for agricultural research have been established in the Ministry of Agriculture, he added.

The conference will close on Wednesday with a final review of the proceedings and delegates are expected to issue recommendations for improving agricultural production in the upland areas and arid regions.

Greek singer-composer duo bring old, new songs from the islands to Amman

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Greek concert programme will be presented Wednesday night at the Palace of Culture by two of the most popular contemporary Greek singers-composers, Mariza Koch and Yiannis Glezos.

Under the patronage of Minister of Youth Hani Khasawneh, the Greek embassy in Jordan in cooperation with the Jordanian Greek Friendship Association, the Greek Universities Alumni Club and the Greek National Tourism Organisation, a concert of Greek folk, popular and modern music will be presented for two nights at the University of Jordan for the students and university personnel and at the Palace of Culture of Al Hussein Sports City for the public.

Based on the poetry of N. Kavadias, Mariza Koch will perform her own compositions in addition to songs of the Greek Islands, rebetika, popular songs, the well known songs of Marika Ninou and some dance music from the Greek Island of Crete, Kalamata and central Greece.

Mariza Koch was born in Ath-

ens and lived on the Island of Santorini. Her first contact with music was through Byzantine hymns and the songs of the islands. She studied music and followed a new method of interpreting traditional songs accompanied by percussion.

Touring with Koch as composer and singer Yiannis Glezos will present his music and his own compositions based on the work and popularity of poems by men like Karvia Lorea, Pablo Neruda, Kariotakis and Kindinis.

During the concert to be held Wednesday, Glezos will also perform his unpublished music to the lyrics of the poet Marcyrosta. Devoting himself to music, Glezos studied piano and harmony and took lessons of compositions at the Julian School of Music and Orchestration and conducting at Columbia University. Glezos' strong personal style is a result of the assimilation of both the Greek tradition and the Western classical music in most of his works.

Both Mariza Koch and Yiannis Glezos believe that it is possible to create a high quality music away from commercialism. They both sing for love, peace, children and the sufferings of many people and

refugees in the world. Glezos music is divided into two categories: Works based on Greek and foreign poetry and second works of his own lyrics. Glezos believes that commercialism undermines his belief of social reform and that was the reason why he created his own style of music based on his beliefs and experience in life and music.

Touring the Middle East for the first time, the two singers and composers, accompanied by an orchestra of guitar, vocals, fiddle, piano, synthesizer, percussion, electric bass and engineers and technicians, will arrive in Amman from Egypt Tuesday and will continue their Middle East trip next week to Syria, Iraq, Kuwait and other countries. The two singers with their group have already toured most European countries, America, the Soviet Union, China, India and Canada.

On Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the Palace of Culture, the concert will present the history of Greek music beginning from the Byzantine hymns to the contemporary melodies.

Tickets and further information can be obtained from the Greek embassy.

Queen presents shields to 31 female bank employees

Noor praises working women's contribution to labour force, development

By Rama Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, 31 Jordanian women who have been working for between 5 to 28 years in the local banking sector Monday were awarded shields in appreciation of their services.

The women were awarded shields bearing the words of Queen Noor: "It is today that the nation honours each Jordanian working woman and takes pride in their contribution towards serving the community and building the country." These words together with the names of the organisers of this event — the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the Business and Professional Women's Club in Jordan (BPWC) were engraved on the shields.

On the occasion, Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar in his speech said that Jordanian women have been working in the banking sector since the early modern period of Jordan. He added that numbers of Jordanian working women have increased and that these women have proved their high standard of work quality and efficiency, which in turn has helped the women to improve their living standard and

a more stable family life. The minister went on to say that Jordanian women working in the banking sector total 35 per cent of the women's labour force, thus averaging half of the Jordanian working women participation in the total labour force. He added that the Ministry of Labour and Social Development in cooperation with the BPWC decided to honour working women as these women have "proved their responsibility towards their job, their honesty in performing their work as well as their continuing work in the banking sector."

Mrs. Inam Al Mufi, former minister of social development and the founder of the BPWC, said that education is the base for promoting any development in the country and that Jordan has proved to have the highest rate of literate women in comparison with other developing countries. She added that females have entered

all aspects of work including extremely technological fields of work, sciences and other important businesses.

Mrs. Mufi stressed that the only way to face the grave challenges that are facing the Arab World is through the education of all its people including women. She added that the women who are working in the different sectors have proved that women are participating effectively in all the jobs they perform.

Mr. Hussein Oasem, deputy governor for the Central Bank of Jordan said that the working women in the banking sectors are a solid proof that "women have very effectively participated in shaping the manpower input in the Arab World."

Miss Mary Hannah, a Jordanian who has been working for Cairo Bank in Amman for the last 28 years in her speech expressed the gratitude of the 31 women who were awarded the shields and said: "Women form half the society and have vital roles to play and they confirm the saying that behind every great man there is a woman."

The working women said that the occasion made them very happy, especially since someone made a step and rewarded them through such a small, yet thoughtful, shield.

Building code committee approves draft volume on insulation specifications

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijem, who is also president of the Jordanian Higher National Committee for the Building Code, Monday chaired a meeting of the committee during which the final draft of the building heat insulation volume of the building code was reviewed and discussed.

The committee approved the heat and insulation draft volume and authorised its printing and circulation to all private and public

sector building institutions. The committee also made a preliminary review of the central heating volume of the building code which will be discussed further in the committee's meeting next week.

The Jordan building code has been drawn up 24 volumes out of which four have so far been approved. The approved drafts are the heat insulation volume, the volume on loads and forces, the volume on site surveys and the

volume on protection against fire.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Nahoulis, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Khatib, Royal Scientific Society President Fakhreddin Daghestani, Housing Bank Director General Zuhair Khouri, Jordan Engineering Association President Ibrahim Abu Ayash and other officials concerned with the building code.

Pilot biomedical engineer lectures on medical diagnosis by image processing

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An American professor Monday delivered a lecture entitled "Mind, Strength and Computer Model" at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

The lecture focused on technically applying computer systems to assess the diagnosis of ailments and illnesses side by side with X-rays and other medical techniques used for diagnosis.

In an interview with the Jordan Times following the lecture Professor Murray Eden, a pilot biomedical engineer, outlined one of the important modern methods used to assess ailments, image processing. This method includes the computerised tomography scanning (CT), images from Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) and Position Emission Tom-

ography (PET) which is used to show the resulting image.

He said these methods are being developed to give an accurate diagnosis of illness and to help medical treatment through early diagnosis.

Prof. Eden has previously contributed to the commercial utilisation of computers and he suggested the use of a number of image printed on foodstuffs and canned goods under the bar code. The bar code was recently utilised to identify foodstuff labels and could be analysed through a computer for stock-taking and records of sales as well as recording dates.

During his lecture, Prof. Eden categorised the computer, brain and the mind saying that the brain is scientifically defined and that it is bio-physically understood regarding its functions. Whereas he related the concept of mind to

experience. "An experience is what a human being feels, his value of emotional feelings and understanding and the notion of an experience is the mind," said Prof. Eden. "I believe I could find out the behaviour of the brain and what happens in the brain when in utmost anxiety or angry," he said, pointing out that some scientific research defines the brain as a kind of "chemical reaction."

Prof. Eden, whose trip to Jordan is sponsored by the American Centre, is currently holding the post as chief of the biomedical engineering and instrumentation department at the national institution of health in Maryland, professor of electrical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge and adjunct professor at the department of electrical engineering in John Hopkins University, Maryland.

Islamic association opens its doors to needy girls

By Raghdia Azizieh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Islamic Cultural Association in Zarka is a charitable organisation. It undertakes many aims and its members voluntarily work long hours attempting to fulfil them.

This association was founded in 1967. Its aims were mainly to assist poor families financially by giving them monthly payments. It also offered medical care to those who could not afford it by paying hospital bills or sending the ambulance they own to the poorer areas in Zarka.

Their last aim, and one which they took special pride in doing, was subsidising students whose academic achievements are excellent but who are unable to pay university or college fees.

The association was then approached by the Ministry of Social Development to undertake the care and welfare of 21 girls referred to the Ministry of Social Development which is official authority to which police stations and courts refer such cases. The ministry and the association investigated and discussed the best means of care to be provided for these girls, until an agreement was reached.

Cooperation agreement

The agreement was that the association provides accommodation, food, clothes and

medical care while the ministry provides qualified personnel to look after the girls. The ministry provided three qualified ladies to run the place, and the association provided a cook and all the financial obligations fall on the association.

As you enter the association's building in Zarka, the first impression is of the cleanliness of the place. The president, Mr. Ibrahim Taqiy Eldeen, who is also the chairman of the Zarka Chamber of Commerce, is an active member in a dozen or more committees as well as running his own business. Mr. Eldeen told the Jordan Times that although the responsibility is great, the reward is greater. When the association took the girls to the centre some were suffering both physically and mentally he said. Yet with constant attention, the association's constant care and the staff's unanimous feeling that they want to really help these girls regardless of effort and cost, the girls gradually respond and adjust, he said.

"According to our accounts, we estimate the project to cost us around JD 50,000. We have plans to expand by building one or two floors in the summer and this would enable us to accept another 20 girls or so," Mr. Eldeen said.

The association's vice president, Dr. Nazih Muzayek, commented on the association's policy of welcoming the contact between these girls and their families. When approached by families the



Young girls at the Islamic Cultural Association enjoy a good meal (J.T. photo)

situation there is reassessed and if found to be adequate then a meeting and a visit is arranged.

He said: "We are only a substitute for the normal life these girls should have but may not receive as a result of certain family crises. But when we are convinced that any of our girls can return home, we are only too glad to agree to her reunion with her own family, especially since this means we can invite another."

The daily routine

The girls' quarters were on the first floor and consist of two rooms for the supervisors and a spacious hall divided into areas for sleeping, sitting and studying. Although the weather was cold

the hall was reasonably heated. Mrs. Iman Ajawi, the principal, told the Jordan Times that the girls' daily routine was getting up at 6.00 and until 8.00 am it is washing and tidying up before breakfast. From 8.00 until 10.00 am they are helped with their studies. "We get them ready and make their sandwiches for school which starts at 10.30. They come back 2.30 and by 3.00 they finish their study. After that we either play games, watch television or go out for walks. We have an age range between six and 14 years and because the girls have constant supervision the atmosphere remains friendly and very cooperative," she said.

Researchers present papers on Bilad Al Sham conquests

AMMAN (Petra) — The second seminar of the fourth Bilad Al Sham conference Monday resumed its meetings during which four committees were formed to discuss 17 research papers prepared by leading historians.

Some of the most important research papers the committees discussed were "The Arab Conquests of Bilad Al Sham" presented by Dr. Korkis Awad, "The History of Damascus City" by Miss Sukeynah Shahab, "The Writings of the European explorer Arkof as a source of the History of Bilad Al Sham during the rule of the First Four Califs" presented by Dr. Mohammad Saad Omran, "Bilad Al Sham conquests in Arabic poetry" by Dr. Adel Abu Amshah and "Historical Tales of Early Islam in Bilad Al Sham between fantasy and historical facts" by Dr. Ibrahim Saateen.

The second committee discussed five studies: "The supply of Arab Armies during the Conquest of Bilad Al Sham" by Dr. Nicola Ziadeh, "The Conquest of Bilad Al Sham" by Dr. Shukri Faisal, "The Supply of the Islamic Army during the time of the Prophet Mohammad" by Dr. Faleh Hussein Faleh, and "Early Islamic Marine" by Dr. Shehadeh Natour.

Four foreign researchers also contributed to the conference with papers on: "The Early Documentation of History by Syrian Arabs" by Professor Donar, "Arabs and Islam in the Tenth Century in Holland" by Dr. Donnelly, and two other papers by Dr. Lawrence Conrad and Dr. Norwell Heilenbride.

Dr. Raymond Hepbart and Dr. Mohammad Baqer both presented papers on Islamic coins and their history.

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War tremor shakes Baghdad, Tehran

By Tod Robberson
and Trevor Wood
Reuters

BAGHDAD — Hundreds of anti-aircraft batteries in and around Baghdad, including one atop a giant arch at the entrance to the presidential compound, give this capital city the appearance of an invulnerable fortress.

People in Baghdad had long considered their city immune to Iranian attacks and thought bombings by pro-Iranian underground groups belonged to the past.

In barely more than a week of escalating violence in the 53-month-old Gulf war, all this has changed. "I have not seen morale this low in Baghdad since the war started," a long-time foreign resident said.

For the first time in two and a half years, residents awoke one morning last week to the sound of air raid sirens, stunned by news that Iranian planes had penetrated thick anti-aircraft fire to bomb a suburb of Baghdad, killing at least 10 people.

The same day, Monday, Iranian troops swept into Iraq's southern Al Hawziah marshes and pushed Iraqi forces back to the Tigris River, 25 kilometres from the international border, during the next

six days of fighting.

Last Thursday, Baghdad, a city of four million people, was rattled by a massive explosion which ripped through four floors of a downtown bank building.

Two days later, another big bomb levelled a small building, only a few blocks from President Saddam Hussein's compound.

A few hours later, the air raid sirens cranked up again, but this time no warjets came.

A third bomb exploded in central Baghdad Monday, causing panic in the streets.

Official statements have sought to play down each incident, but, naturally, tension is high in Baghdad.

Soldiers armed with Soviet-made AK-47 assault rifles have been posted at strategic locations throughout the city.

At major government buildings and hotels, guards closely monitor comings and goings, searching automobiles and handbags.

Even in the home, the war has suddenly become an unwelcome guest.

For those families who have lost relatives in battle, a black banner flies in the yard to remind passers-by that this is a household in mourning.

Since last week's Iranian thrust

in southern Iraq, Baghdad television has shown nightly footage of corpse-littered battlefields and marshes, complete with close-ups of brains spilling from shattered skulls, faces charred beyond recognition and shredded arms and legs.

Presumably, such graphic scenes, accompanied by fiery narration describing the heroics of Iraqi soldiers, are meant to convince viewers that Iraq is prevailing in battle.

Sometimes, however, it has the opposite effect, turning a family gathering around the television set into a horror scene.

An Iraqi teenage girl went into hysterics last Thursday when Baghdad television showed what it said was footage from an Italian film of an Iranian prisoner-of-war camp.

The film showed an Iraqi prisoner being tied by the wrists to two jeeps, which then sped away in opposite directions, ripping off his right arm and dragging him by the other arm through the dirt.

Monday, the television broadcast a high command communique saying the Iranian offensive in the south had been defeated and calling of all Iraqis to celebrate the victory at home, in streets, schools, everywhere.

Tehran under fire

For the first time in the Gulf war, Tehran is a target of Iraqi attacks and residents are learning to live with air raid warnings, blackouts and the thud of anti-aircraft fire.

Twice in the past week, Iraqi warplanes raided residential areas, killing at least 10 people. On other occasions, Iraqi planes flew over Tehran, breaking the sound barrier, and Iran's entire airspace has now been declared a war zone by Iraq.

Instead of taking shelter at the sound of the air raid sirens, many people stand on their balconies to watch the bursting shells and the odd tracer, made all the more brilliant by the absence of any lights.

Authorities impose a complete blackout during air raid alerts simply by shutting off the city's electricity. Most anti-aircraft guns are sited in military compounds dotted around Tehran.

"Nobody now seems to bother to take cover when there is an alert," one businessman said. "Perhaps it is because the attacks are so sudden they are over almost before the sirens go off."

However, some people living close to obvious targets, such as the airport, have moved in with

relatives elsewhere and a few have left the city of seven million altogether.

There had been a scramble by foreigners for seats on a few evacuation flights laid on by Western airlines, even before Iraq announced Sunday it would regard Iranian airspace a warzone as from 1700 GMT today (Tuesday).

"It is just that you don't know whether it is going to be your house hit the next time," said one West German woman flying out with her two children.

Like other diplomatic families, they live in the north of Tehran, also home to Iranian Revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, which has been the target of the Iraqi raids.

All 700 seats on two special flights to West Germany are booked. About 160 Italians and other Europeans left on Saturday.

The Japanese embassy has advised its 800 nationals to leave unless they have compelling reasons to stay. Other Western embassies have not recommended evacuation but have said they would help those who wish to leave.

Iraq has warned foreign airlines to stay away from Iranian airspace after its Tuesday deadline or face possible attack by Iraqi warplanes.

The cancellation of many foreign flights has left a number of Iranians stranded in Tehran over this week's Persian New Year, a time when many seek holidays abroad.

The air raids have also led to a larger run on food shops than usual for the holiday. "But in general people seem to have adapted themselves to the situation and life is going on much as always," one foreign diplomat said.

The raids have increased Tehran residents' interest in the progress on the battlefield in southern Iraq. Television shows films of Iranian troops trudging along narrow dirt roads through the flat, desolate marshes of gently-waving reeds. The camera dwells particularly on the bodies of Iraqi soldiers.

Last Thursday, when Iran said it had hit Baghdad with a ground-launched missile and the radio broke into programmes with news that an explosion had wrecked the headquarters of Iraq's largest bank, there was euphoria in Tehran.

Business came almost to standstill. One bank official told his customers there would be no more transactions that day and he offered them cakes and chocolates.

Chance is here today

A MORE positive picture of the U.S. stand on the Middle East is emerging, albeit slowly, following President Mubarak's visit to Jordan yesterday. "The Americans are studying our thoughts and suggestions... especially Mr. Reagan," President Mubarak said just before he left Amman for Baghdad with His Majesty the King. "I am optimistic, and I am optimistic because I am realistic."

Realism demands from Washington some kind of movement in response to the great efforts that are being exerted by Jordan, Egypt and the PLO to achieve peace. The U.S. can in any event expect from the others to do all the running for itself, since if everything was so rosy and going well no kind of clamour would be needed from Washington anyway.

The positive picture that the Egyptian president has been trying to portray cannot possibly stop at a vague American promise to study the situation some more. We vividly remember Secretary of State George Shultz's words that in the Middle East, "there is hardly anything left to be said about the peace process."

It is time for action, as Mr. Shultz had understood a long time ago. And he has in his hands whatever he requires for progress from the Arab side. Israel will not be delivered with a pat on the back; nor does the question of Arab-Israeli peace rest on a bridge to a gap. The Arabs call on the U.S. to assume such a vital role in the Middle East simply because they know that the road through Washington is the only viable alternative to going to war.

The U.S. needs no further proof that we are all out for peace. The State Department and the White House have all the documents they need to prove our point. But if it is a better opportunity for peace that the Americans are after, let them wait a while longer if they want that opportunity may never be.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: In defence of Arabs

KING HUSSEIN has urged Arab leaders to undertake a common action and put an end to the Iran-Iraq war, and the tragedies both countries are facing. The current Iranian offensive has been in the making for a whole year and more than 200,000 Iranian troops have been recruited to launch the attack across Iraq's international boundaries in order to destroy Iraqi towns and villages.

The Iranians have made it clear they want to occupy Iraqi territory as the Zionists had done in Palestine. The King's messages to Arab leaders came not only to remind them of their duty towards Iraq and its people but also to stop the shedding of blood of all Muslim and Arab people on both sides of the front. The messages came amidst an escalation of the fighting and at a time when no world powers are showing any interest to stop the conflict.

All those who brag about peace and world stability and justice have done nothing to end the tragedy and the disasters befalling the Arab and Muslim nations. Therefore, it is high time for Arab leaders to meet in a summit in the Iraqi capital to discuss effective measures to end the war. Arab leaders should openly declare their backing of Iraq in word and deed and should rally to fight alongside the Iraqi people in defending Arab soil and safeguarding the interests of the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: Washington's special obligation

KING HUSSEIN has reiterated that the United States has a special responsibility towards the establishment of peace in the Middle East. He said in an interview with the New York Times newspaper that this responsibility can first be carried out through accepting a dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and recognising the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in any future peace settlement.

King Hussein has thus urged Washington to seize the historic chance which the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement of Feb. 11 is offering for reactivating efforts for a settlement. No doubt this message to the Reagan administration was the same which President Hosni Mubarak had conveyed to Washington during his last visit there. No doubt also, this will be the main topic for discussion by Mubarak with King Hussein in Amman Monday.

All these moves reflect a genuine desire on the part of both Egypt and Jordan to pursue meaningful efforts leading towards the establishment of peace. Both leaders realise the unique role the United States can and should play in cooperation with the members of the United Nations Security Council to achieve that goal, and that was the driving cause behind urging Washington to carry out its responsibility.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arabs should concert effort

THE CURRENT battles in the marshes of southern Iraq are probably the fiercest ever since the start of the Gulf war more than four and a half years ago. Each time Iran launches what it calls a spring offensive it loses thousands of its troops and each time the Iraqis are forced to retaliate with devastating blows they inflict heavy losses in men and material on the Iranian enemy.

It seems that Iran will take long to learn a lesson and abandon its intransigence and accept peace bids. But these battles remind the Arabs of their enemies' attempts over the ages to try to occupy their land like the Persians, ancestors of the present Iranians on the east and the Byzantines in the north and northwest of the Arabian peninsula.

The Israelis in modern history represent the Byzantines in the past. Both enemies had had ambitions on our land and both fought bitter wars to try to lay their hands on this land. Therefore, we look on Iraq's endeavours to stem the Iranian onslaught as a genuine effort towards repelling the enemies and thwarting their ambitions and plans.

Any failure to support the Iraqis in these noble endeavours must be regarded as an act of treachery against the nation. The Iraqis now need genuine support in word and deed and full backing for their attempts to defend the whole nation. Iraq's ambitions are wide and endless and can be stemmed only through joint and concerted Arab action.

The strategic concept behind U.S. aims in Geneva

By Paul H. Nitze

WASHINGTON — The approach of the United States to the arms-control talks in Geneva is rooted in a strategic concept that can be summarised in four sentences:

— The U.S. objective for the next decade is a radical reduction in the power of existing and planned offensive nuclear arms, as well as stabilisation of the relationship between offensive and defensive nuclear arms, whether on Earth or in space.

— We are even now looking forward to a period of transition to a more stable world, with greatly reduced levels of nuclear arms and an enhanced ability to deter war based on an increasing contribution to defence of nonnuclear weapons.

— This period of transition could lead to the elimination of all nuclear arms, offensive and defensive.

— A world free of nuclear arms is an ultimate objective on which the United States, the Soviet Union and all other nations can agree.

Some amplifications of this position are worth mentioning.

For the immediate future, at least the next 10 years, we will continue to base deterrence on the ultimate threat of nuclear retaliation. Today's technology provides no alternative.

We will, however, press for radical cuts in strategic and intermediate range nuclear arms. We also will seek to reverse the erosion of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty regime, erosion resulting from Soviet actions such as construction of a large phased-array radar in central Siberia.

And we will pursue the strategic defence initiative research programme, in compliance with the ABM treaty, which permits such research. The Russians are expected to continue their study of defensive technologies.

In the transition period envi-

saged, the United States would want to begin moving towards greater reliance on defensive systems for our protection and that of our allies, should new defensive technologies prove feasible.

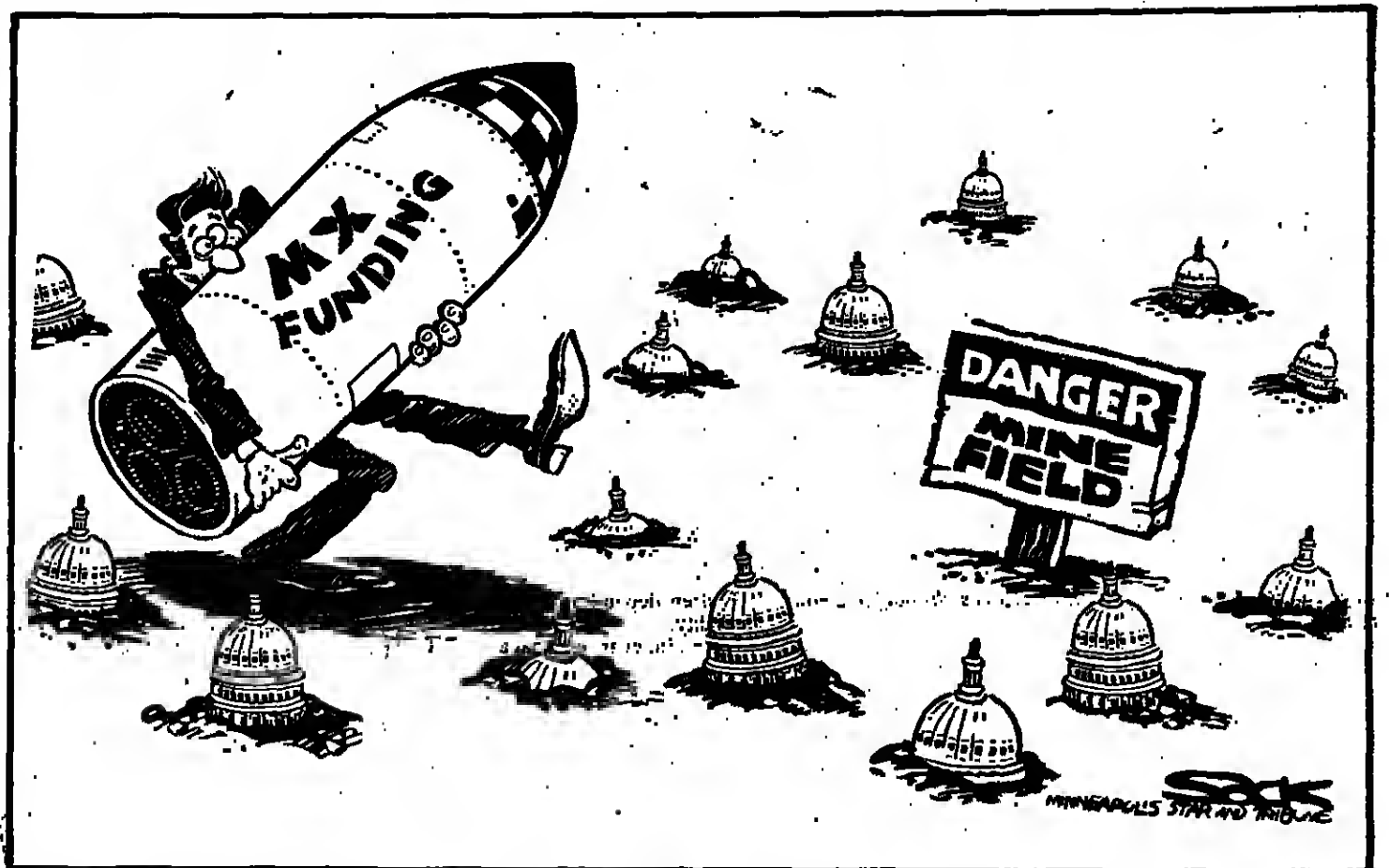
The criteria by which we will judge the feasibility of such technologies will be demanding. They must produce defensive systems that are reasonably survivable as well as cost-effective at the margin—that is, they must be effective enough and cheap enough to add defensive capability without giving the other side an incentive to try to overcome the defence with increased offensive capability.

If new technologies cannot meet such standards, we would not deploy them. However, we hope that scientists would respond to the challenge.

The United States looks to make any transition a cooperative endeavor with the Russians. That is why we have offered to begin discussions in Geneva now as to how we might together make a transition to a more stable and reliable relationship based on an increasing mix of defensive systems. In such a transition, arms control would play an important role. We would, for example, seek continued reductions in nuclear arms.

Concurrently, we would envisage both sides beginning to test and deploy survivable and cost-effective defences at a measured pace, with particular emphasis on nonnuclear defences. Deterrence would thus begin to rely on a mix of offensive nuclear and defensive systems, instead of offensive nuclear arms alone.

The transition would continue for some time, perhaps for decades. As the U.S. and Soviet strategic and intermediate-range nuclear arsenals declined significantly, we would seek to negotiate reductions in other types of nuclear weapons, and in some manner involve the other nuclear powers.



Given the right technical and political conditions, we would hope to continue the reduction of all nuclear weapons down to zero, according to the U.S. concept. This would have far-reaching implications for the global military balance at all levels. For example, the deterrent effect of nuclear arms has helped prevent conventional conflict. Were we to eliminate such weapons, the need for a stable conventional balance would become even more important. We would have to study how to diminish the threat posed by imbalances of conventional weapons.

The elimination of nuclear weapons would be accompanied by deployments of effective non-nuclear defences. These would provide assurance that were one country to cheat — by, say, covertly building intercontinental ballistic missiles — it would not achieve an exploitable advantage. To overcome the defences, cheating would have to be on a scale of too great a magnitude to pass unnoted.

A nonnuclear world would not be risk-free. The knowledge of how to make nuclear arms cannot be excised. But the risks of cheating in a nonnuclear world would

seem to be far less than the risks and potential costs posed by a possible breakdown in the current deterrence regime.

Deterrence requires that a potential opponent be convinced that the risks and costs of aggression far outweigh the gains that he might hope to achieve. Our goal is not to do away with deterrence, but to shift the deterrent balance from one based primarily on the ultimate threat of devastating nuclear retaliation to one in which nuclear arms are greatly reduced and nonnuclear defences play a greater role. We believe this would provide a sounder basis for

a stable and reliable strategic relationship.

Were we to reach the ultimate phase and eliminate nuclear weapons, deterrence would be based on the ability of the defence to deny success to a potential aggressor's attack — whether nuclear or conventional. The strategic relationship could then be characterised as one of mutual assured security.

The writer, former secretary of the Navy, is special adviser to President Reagan for arms-control negotiations. He contributed this article to the Los Angeles Times.

Talk of two ladies in Filipino elections

By David Briscoe
Associated Press

MANILA — In a society where men are the traditional leaders but women often wield more power, there is increasing talk of a battle between the country's two best known women for the Philippine presidency.

Both first lady Imelda Marcos, 55, and the widow of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino, Corason, 52, say they will not run. The election is set for 1987, but critics of President Ferdinand E. Marcos, 67, insist despite his denials that it may be earlier, possibly this year.

Mrs. Marcos says she only wants to support her husband for reelection. Mrs. Aquino says she, as leader of an opposition coalition, only wants to gain justice for her husband and "restore democracy to the Philippines."

But Mr. Marcos' early announcement that he will run for reelection and his increased activity following several months of medical seclusion have not stopped rumours that he may soon yield to his younger and more active wife.

Labour Minister Blas Ople says Mrs. Marcos is the most likely contender after Mr. Marcos because she is "preeminent in organisation resources and personal networks."

Mrs. Aquino's insistence that she will not run for any office also has failed to stop speculation she may be drafted by a badly splintered opposition looking for a

candidate no one in the opposition can oppose.

Her husband, assassinated Aug. 21, 1983, in what government prosecutors are trying to prove was a military conspiracy involving Armed Forces chief Gen. Fabian C. Ver, is considered a martyr by a wide variety of opposition groups.

"If you are looking for one who could really unify the opposition right now, it would be Mrs. Cory Aquino. That is the feeling of all of us," said former supreme court justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma, who chaired a recent opposition political convention.

Mrs. Marcos, a cabinet minister and governor of metropolitan Manila, long has been the second most powerful figure in government, overshadowing Prime Minister Cesar Virata.

In a recent weeks, she has dedicated public markets, met with farmers in their fields, handed out relief goods and announced several new projects. She headed a delegation to the funeral of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko.

Mrs. Aquino, a quiet but compelling woman whose public speeches barely last for more than a few minutes, never has run for political office. She openly accuses Mr. Marcos of masterminding her husband's death and has been working for unity among several groups opposing Mr. Marcos.

The Philippines never has had a woman president, but it has had women supreme court justices — Mrs. Palma was the first. Women have held most other government

posts, and are common in nearly all professions.

Women journalists are among the boldest in criticising Mr. Marcos' government, and a woman, Eugenia D. Apostol, publishes three of the widest-circulating opposition weeklies.

Catholic nuns have spearheaded human rights groups trying to gain the release of political prisoners.

Two beauty queens, Maiza Gomez and Nelia Saacho, have led protest marches. Mrs. Marcos' daughter, Imee, sits in the national assembly along with opposition assemblywoman Eva Estrada Kalaw, who is also a possible presidential candidate.

Most of the Communist guerrilla fighters waging an armed revolt against the government include women, commonly referred to as "Amazon" in military news releases.

A militant women's group recently honoured 13 women, including some who were reportedly tortured and killed by the military.

The government recently has fielded an all-female anti-riot squad, equipped with helmets, shields and clubs.

A woman, former Juvenile Court judge Corason Agrava, headed a fact-finding board that indicted 25 soldiers and a civilian in the August 1983 Aquino assassination, although she didn't go along with the board's majority report, wanting to stop short of naming Gen. Ver.

Even though Filipino men rarely perform such chores as was-

hing dishes and often get higher pay than women, there never has been much of a women's rights movement in the Philippines.

"Women here don't need it," said novelist F. Sionil Jose. "They hold the real power, and they know it."

A priest performing a recent wedding between a young American male and a Filipino advised the man in the ceremony to turn over all his pay checks to his wife.

"It's the Filipino way," said the Rev. Patricio Lim. Filipino grooms have to pay the wedding expenses.

Prominent essayist Carmen Guerrero Nakpil, who now works for Mrs. Marcos as head of a government technology centre, wrote in 1963 that women were the power behind most prominent Filipino politicians.

"It has often been said that Filipino society is a matriarchy," wrote Mrs. Nakpil. "But it is a kind of underworld matriarchy. Ostensibly, it is a man's world. But the women rule without anybody but themselves knowing it."

Mrs. Marcos has refused to comment on the possibility of a race against Mrs. Aquino, whose husband was Mr. Marcos' most formidable opponent.

"The less said about this, the better," she told a group of reporters.

Nkomati treaty has proved little success

By Tonic Sakalike
Reuters

NAIROBI — Prospects for peace between South Africa and Mozambique appear to be fading fast as a non-aggression pact between them approaches its first anniversary this week.

Though Pretoria is satisfied at the decline in guerrilla attacks against it as a result of the pact, Maputo has experienced an escalation in hostilities.

Mozambique President Samora Machel, who welcomed the accord as "an instrument of peace and tranquillity", now accuses white-ruled South Africa of not keeping its side of the bargain.

The Nkomati Treaty, signed on March 16 last year, commits both states to ceasing support on their territory for insurgent groups hostile to the other.

For Mozambique, the pact meant clamping down on the activities of the African National Congress (ANC), the main guerrilla group fighting minority white rule in South Africa.

More than 200 ANC members left the country soon after it was signed. The loss of bases was a bitter blow to the organisation, whose president, Oliver Tambo, condemned Mr. Machel for fraternising with the enemy.

South Africa was required to cut aid to guerrillas of the right-wing Mozambique National Resistance (MNR), who launched opposition to Mr. Machel's government in 1975.

But over the past year, guerrilla violence has escalated in Mozambique. Rebels have recently been particularly active in southern Maputo province, previously unscathed by the war.

Maputo, the Mozambican capital, is virtually under siege, plagued by blackouts caused by sabotage, and by food and fuel shortages.

Last week Mr. Machel told a summit meeting of the frontline states, six black-ruled countries which champion the continent's opposition to apartheid, that he considers the pact a failure, according to African diplomatic sources in the Zambian capital.

But Pretoria believes its main purpose in formulating the treaty, to deprive ANC guerrillas of their Mozambique bases, has been largely achieved.

South African Policy Commissioner P.J. Coetzee said in a report this month that the accord had led to a clear decline in guerrilla infiltration incidents.

Sources close to the Lusaka summit meeting said leaders were unanimous that the agreement, the first open treaty between South Africa and a country until then one of the most vocal opponents of apartheid, had been a failure.

Diplomatic sources said a collapse of the pact could undermine Western influence now creeping into Mozambique, a Soviet ally but a member of the Non-Aligned Movement.

مكتبة الأمل

The false starts that Africa failed to correct

Rene Dumont, 20 years ago foresaw the present crises in agriculture which are devastating Africa. In this article he talks about what should be done to reverse this trend.

By Stanley Meisler

IN PARIS in the 1960s, the early days of independence in Africa, many people concerned about Africa's future read and reread a book by a French professor warning that the continent could be heading toward disaster. Now, in the face of terrifying famine, the book was clearly prophetic. Professor Rene Dumont, the author, recalls that he once told a peasant schoolboy in the old French Congo, where women do most of the farming, "If your sister goes to school, you won't have anything to eat but your fountain pen."

Mr. Dumont was not criticising equality of opportunity for women; but railing against the European school systems in Africa that created elitist Africans who turned their backs on agriculture.

For 25 years, the teachings of Mr. Dumont in that book, "False Start in Africa" have been praised and quoted throughout the continent. Several African leaders have even asked Mr. Dumont to come more deeply into their countries and come up with specific recommendations. But his ideas have almost never been put into practice.

African leaders have found it politically impossible to implement policies that would favour the rural countryside and weaken the power of the cities, with their elaborate elite-producing school systems.

"In 1983," Mr. Dumont said, "when I delivered a report on Senegal to President Abdou Diouf, he told me, 'Monsieur Professor, you are right. We must establish a better balance between the city and the countryside. But I cannot do it, because I do not have the organised political power in the rural areas to counter the organised political power of the urban

areas." Mr. Dumont, who passed 81 recently, has written more than 20 books about development in the "Third World." He still spends time travelling through Africa in search of problems and solutions. His "Stranglehold on Africa" was published in 1980, and another major work, "Starving Africa," is due to appear in September.

Mr. Dumont began his work in Indo-China in 1929. He has completed research in countries as different as Cuba and Bangladesh, and for several decades after the World War II, he taught at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris. In 1974, he ran for president of France on an ecology platform, winning almost 340,000 votes, a little more than 1 per cent of the total.

Mr. Dumont shakes his head in disbelief, at the stupidities of bureaucracy, European and African, packing his arguments with outrageous examples of foolish decisions and foolish projects. The incessant growth of what he regards as irrelevant formal education still astounds him.

"In Dakar," he said, "we now have 920 Senegalese who have master's degrees but no jobs. At the beginning, you needed a primary certificate for the right to sell bread. In the 1950s, you needed a junior high school education. Now you need a high school diploma. Perhaps some day you will need a master's degree to sell bread."

Mr. Dumont believes the present agricultural disaster comes from the failure of traditional and archaic methods trying to cope with the population explosion. But even more important, he believes that little has been done to solve this problem because African political leaders have continually exploited the rural areas for the benefit of the towns.

"Cities are dangerous for pol-

iticians," Mr. Dumont said. "They are filled with the unemployed. The cities are poor, at least for most of the people who live there. Poor cities must be fed with cheap food. The politicians fix prices for cereals from the countryside at too low a level."

The problem is compounded by the incredible pace of urbanisation in Africa, drawing people from productive farm work into unproductive cities.

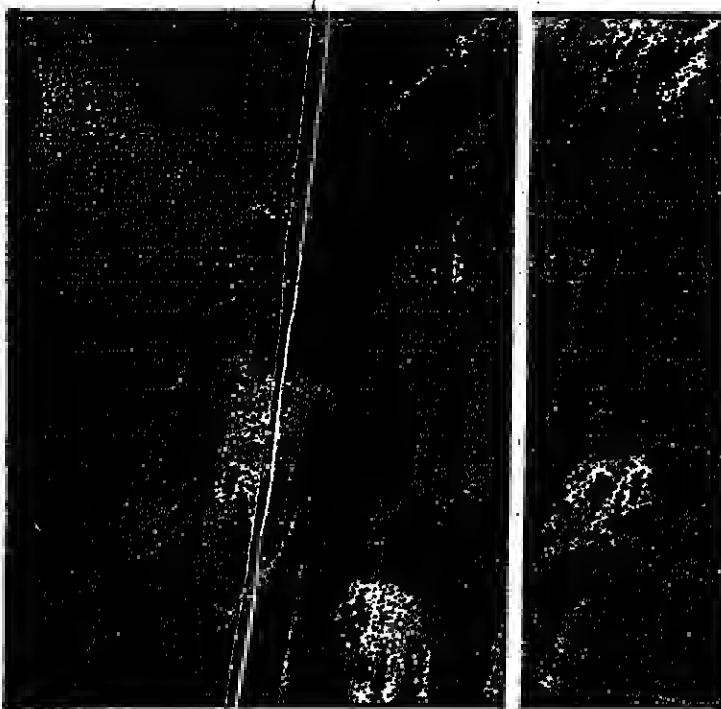
"In Mauritania," he says, "400,000 people, one-quarter of the population, now live in the capital of Nouakchott, a city of no agriculture, of no animal-raising, of no industry. It is an artificially created capital, a city of service, of bureaucrats and businessmen. It has factories that are closed and do not function. There is a possibility that there won't be enough water for it in 20 years. The cities cannot employ. The cities cannot provide."

"What is needed in the countryside is literacy in the African language, instruction in improved farming techniques, a strategy of food production, and organisation of farmers into pressure groups. At present, the peasants are not a political force. But the cities do not want them to become one."

"In Mali, there was an excellent programme for making peasants literate in their native language. But as soon as the programme became large, the government sabotaged it."

"Look the cities of Europe also exploited the rural areas in the past. But they invested the fruits of their exploitation in factories and productive investment. Down there, they rob the peasants and put the money in large cars and unproductive prestige projects."

In the 1960s, Mr. Dumont's views were so prized that leaders like President Nyerere of Tanzania and President Kaunda of Zambia adopted them as their own. Nyerere issued official documents on agriculture and education in 1967 and 1968 that were



Europe was here

obviously inspired by his reading of Mr. Dumont's book. Kaunda made declarations on economics based on what Nyerere said. Both presidents invited Mr. Dumont to visit and write reports on their countries. Yet Mr. Dumont insists, neither Tanzania nor Zambia ever followed his recommendations.

In Tanzania, he said, "the bureaucrats either did not understand Nyerere or did not want to understand him. In Zambia in 1979, President Kaunda ordered the national printers to print 500 copies of my report on Zambia as an official document. But after it was published... the administration locked up the copies in a room with all the classified documents on national defence."

"The chief of state had the power to order the printing of the report but not the power to order its distribution. The chiefs of state have their hands tied by their bureaucrats."

For more than 25 years, Mr. Dumont has preached that specialists must seek simple solutions to deal with the traditional shortcomings of African farmers. Education and small loans are more important, in Mr. Dumont's view, than elaborate machinery

and big projects. Since the agricultural revolution of the 18th century, Europe has not left large portions of its farmland fallow. Yet African farmers still do, unable to afford the fertiliser and continuously. Africans still let their cattle, sheep, and goats roam freely. Mr. Dumont says that farmers must be taught to build corridors for their animals and to assign guardians to lead them through the corridors.

"Africa," he said, "does not even have sheepdogs. Two magnificent dams are going up on the Senegal River at a cost of \$7.00 million," he said. "They are supposed to irrigate 350,000 hectares of land. Right now, they are managing to irrigate an additional 1,000 hectares each year. At that rate, I told a colleague recently, 'I can come back in 350 years when the job is done.'"

"If I had that money, I would split it among each of 400,000 villages of the Sahel, on little projects like, 'It is corridors for the animals. In that way, we would get immediate results. I am not against large dams, but we need 10 years of the little projects first' — The Guardian.

One EC Commission has gone, another has come

Jacques Delors, president of the new commission of the European Community, recently addressed the European Parliament. Following are major extracts from his statement:

ONE COMMISSION has gone, another has come. The outgoing commission has left us a message of hope. Disenchantment with Europe is receding. Europe is on the point of settling the family feuds which have literally paralysed it in recent years. The proposal put forward by the outgoing commission, its constant reaffirmation of the original contract uniting us, did much to settle these disputes which future historians will find laughable in the harsh light of contemporary challenges.

So it is that a new commission appears before you, imbued with intellectual humility and great political resolve. I believe that the engineers of European integration are fulfilling not over "what has to be done" but rather over "how to go about it". We can no longer blame the crippling weight of the crisis, the absence of political will or the inertia of national officialdom. We need to look further and, here again, there is a glimmer of hope: the European Council is now as anxious as this house to improve the performance of the institutions.

While the world around us is in a state of flux, the powers of today regathering their strength and the powers of tomorrow flexing their muscles, Europe's credibility is at stake, in the eyes of our own people, in the eyes of the superpowers, and in the eyes of the "Third World".

Does Europe want to exist? Does it want to win respect? But credibility will have to be earned the hard way. It will depend on Europe's strength, on Europe's economic and financial power, on the example set by Europe as a society.

Europe's credibility

We would like to see the European electors, enjoying the daily experience of a tangible Europe, a real community where travel, communication and trade are possible without any hindrance. If we can achieve this, the 1989 European elections will mark a renewal, the birth of effective citizenship, a renaissance of democracy.

But faced with the uncertainties and worries of the future, what people are looking for above all else is not freedom of movement. They are concerned with living, with finding a place in society, in other words work, with the balance between career and private life, with the post-industrial society and their environment. Pulling down the frontiers will not convince them of our resolve to do away with massive unemployment. Here, too, the credibility of the European venture is at stake, at both national and community level: at national level, since nothing will absolve us from the need to reforge competitive structures and rediscover the path to economic growth; and at community level, since it is the multiplier of national efforts. Economic convergence will be meaningless to people if we have not reversed the terrible rise of unemployment within the next two years. It depends on us. It depends on our strength and our ability to adapt our structures and stimulate an economic upturn at the same time.

It is impossible to imagine that Europe should not be involved in this great cultural debate, when we remember that, besides its shameful past and fratricidal wars, it has provided mankind with

models of thought in which society, the individual and nature tend towards a harmonious equilibrium.

It is in this spirit that we will celebrate 1985 as International Youth Year, reflecting the questions, hopes and fears of the new generation. In this spirit we will defend and affirm our identity and cultural diversity in a world being transformed by information technology.

Where then, is the message of hope I spoke of just now? It lies in our ability to speak with a single voice and act in concert. Can we do it? To be perfectly frank, our record in recent years is not very encouraging. The community has, it is true, fought for its various interests, but too often it has been on the defensive, at best limiting the damage. Most of the time there have been no forceful statements of a common position but merely vague intentions, with varying shifts of emphasis from one member state to another. The result: the community has been unable to persuade its two major partners and friends — the United States and Japan — to act in concert to remedy the glaring ills of the world economy, such as monetary instability, prohibitive interest rates, hidden protectionism and the reduction in aid of all kinds to the poorest countries.

Those who look on the bright side will tell me that the worst has been avoided: the problems of indebtedness have been resolved one by one; international trade has picked up once more, but the sickness has not been cured, nor the danger removed. I do not claim to have all the answers. I am simply asking the central question: Are the member states agreed on their diagnosis of the major problems of the world economy? Are they capable, once they have ascertained what their differences are and gone some way towards overcoming them, of working out a set of proposals which are acceptable to all and likely to improve its operation? That is the most important question Europe has to answer.

It is my responsibility to stimulate discussions, to rescue us from what must be seen as Europe's lethargy in this area. I will do this with the deep-seated conviction that we can reach dynamic agreement among ourselves which will lead to proposals and joint action. And the aim is not just to protect our own legitimate industrial, agricultural and financial interests: we also have to cooperate in a world economic order very different from the fable of the fox and the chickens. We must show by the quality of our proposals and the exemplary nature of our actions that efficiency and justice can go together and that the emerging countries — "les nations en voie de se faire", as Francois Perroux called them — must be treated on equal terms. It will then be up to them to show that they can make a positive contribution to the development of the world economy.

This is the significance of Lome III, which is an example of continuity on the part of the community and should encourage us to pursue our efforts to establish a fairer, more efficient economic order.

We must therefore get things clear — and quickly! We are being challenged: to maintain Europe as an agricultural power, to take our place in the forefront of the new technologies, to invest in our own development rather than see part

of our resources go to sustain the growth of the strongest. We must share world responsibilities on monetary matters and defend our trading interests, as well as playing our full part in widening the exchange of goods and services.

Europe's strength

Democracy is not just Europe's credibility in everyday life: it also means vitality in industrial relations and maximum participation. Justice means more than a fair reward for initiative and risk-taking: it also means the kind of community that makes all its members welcome and is mindful of the need to provide equal opportunities for all. Let me ask this: when will we have the first European collective bargaining agreement?

European industrial society used to be a model of efficiency. It is less so today — there can be no doubt about it. It is fighting for its life — that is quite clear. Reforms are needed — nobody denies it. But the principles still hold good, because they are based on the idea of a balanced relationship between society and the individual.

What we lack, is the benefit of scale and the multiplier effect. This can only result from a more united and more integrated Europe. In its four years in office, the commission proposes to take decisive steps in three directions:

- a large market and industrial cooperation;
 - the strengthening of the European Monetary System (EMS);
 - the convergence of economies to lead to higher growth and more jobs.
- We have to do this if we are to exist in a world where large entities dominate and where toughness is the principal characteristic of all kinds of relations. We have to start without delay: I must insist on this. In taking this action, we shall be saying "no" to scepticism, "no" to defeatism and "no" to all excuses, no matter how cleverly presented for public opinion. European affairs often give the impression of being a contest between member states instead of presenting the picture of a united team, a party of climbers scaling greater heights.

The three branches of the proposal cannot be separated. There can be no fair and healthy competition without a harmonisation of rules.

But Europe will not modernise its production structures just because a large market exists. The search for the larger scale will require the promotion of cooperation between European firms, the creation of a suitable framework, tax concessions to encourage business cooperation and financial incentives at community level instead of the costly and ineffective escalation of national aids and incentives.

One of the factors which has helped to start the harmonisation process is the European Monetary System. The EMS, by effectively stopping monetary dumping has helped increase intra-community trade. So there is no monetary dumping, but that is not enough. There should be no social dumping either. I believe that our economies are too inflexible. But the causes of this inflexibility are many.

So all things are interconnected: whether in a situation of renewed dynamism or one of slow decline. It is up to us to demonstrate, over the coming months, the virtues of interdependence and solidarity entered into with full awareness of the consequences — European Community newsletter.

China applies new rules for one-child policy

China, a country containing more than a fifth of the world's population, has been pursuing a policy aimed at limiting family size to one child, in an effort to slow down the rate of population growth. But in the face of continuing resistance in some rural areas, the policy is now being relaxed.

By Elisabeth Coll

THE single-child policy remains the rule in China today, but there have been changes in emphasis both in the way the policy is presented and the way it is carried out.

Instead of stressing the uniformity or standardisation of its regulations, their stringency and urgency, the authorities are now promoting flexibility, controlled relaxation and the evolution of appropriate rules to suit specific conditions and regions.

"The guidelines for this new phase in the development of the single-child family policy were issued by the Chinese government last year, following indications that it had become increasingly sensitive to charges of coercion, especially from abroad. The new guidelines stated that there must be an enquiry into the views of the people and that the policy "must be reasonable, well-received by the people and practical for cadres

to enforce." In the last few months most provincial governments have taken steps to investigate responses to the single-child policy and they have each issued supplementary regulations modifying its implementation.

Enquiries into popular attitudes revealed that the two-child family was reasonably acceptable in much of the countryside, although interestingly the idea of a single-son family policy was also floated by some respondents as a better compromise.

Most of the supplementary regulations issued permit more second births and very carefully specify the conditions under which a second child is to be permitted.

couple might be tightened, it seems that they are henceforth to be permitted to have two or three children depending on their nationality.

A major change is that a second child is now permitted in the countryside if either of the parents is an only child, and in the cities when both parents are only children. The rationale behind this change is the idea that the one-child rule only prevails for a single generation.

A single child is also now to be permitted in the countryside where an only son gives birth to a daughter, where the continuation of the family line is threatened by the birth of a single daughter, or where the husband has moved to his wife's household on marriage and the first child is a daughter. Previously a second child had only been permitted in cases where all these circumstances pertained.

These modifications make concessions to the strength of kinship ties and the degree of social preference in the countryside, which have both been responsible for the continuing high number of multiple births in the countryside and, in some extreme circumstances, for female infanticide.

A major modification of the policy is the broader authorisation of a second child where peasant couples find themselves in "practical or financial difficulties".

This is, perhaps, the most loosely defined category which lends itself to a greater range of interpretation — especially at a time when new rural economic reforms are encouraging peasant households to maximise their family labour power. Currently this category seems to be defined not so much according to the circumstances of an individual couple, but according to location or the natural endowment and economic and cultural development of any one region.

In Sichuan province, something of a peace-rat in family planning, it is currently being suggested that the province should be divided into five physical regions — urban, rural (suburbs and plains), hilly, mountainous and high mountainous — each of which is to have regulations appropriate to its conditions.

In urban areas, one child only would be permitted, in plains and hilly areas, 50 per cent of all households would be permitted to have two children and in mountainous and high mountainous regions all couples would be permitted to have a second child.

This policy division is very much based on current practice, for the average number of children born per couple in the hilly, mountainous and high mountainous regions is already two, 2.5 and five respectively. Sichuan province was a special case in that after matching the quotas set by the state and its projected birth rates, it has recently calculated that it can afford to be a little more lenient in the application of the single-child policy in the future.

Although not all provinces are in the same position, it is remarkable that the new concessions are very similar for each province. At the same time though, policy statements, all stress that any relaxation of the policy is to be very controlled, and it is clear that the general policy advocating one child will continue to be the major family planning platform in the foreseeable future.

There is to be virtually no alteration in its implementation in the cities where frequently upwards of 90 per cent of couples have accepted the single-child certificate — People feature.

Finnish fur farmers fly high after long distress

After a couple of difficult years, Finland's fur industry is back in profit, reports Kevin Dome, recently in Vaasa. There is a ceiling to growth, however — there is not enough food in Finland to breed more minks and foxes.

FUR FARMERS, who labour through the long cold winter on the frozen plains of Ostrobothnia in western Finland, are watching with undisguised relief as fur prices at the Helsinki auctions finally lambar back to levels where they can again make a respectable living.

The Fins are the leading supplier of furred furs to the world market, providing no less than 67 per cent of all fox furs and around 6 per cent of mink pelts.

Over the last decade Finnish producers have stolen a march on the rest of the fur world developing an unrivalled grip in particular on the production of fox furs and easily outstripping their rivals in Scandinavia, Poland and the Soviet Union.

Since 1975 world production of blue fox fur has climbed from 65,000 skins to around 2.7 million. In the same period Finland has raised its own production from 10,000 to 1.8 million.

With the addition of 4.4 million mink pelts Finnish fur farmers have built an industry with export earnings of some Fmk1.4 billion (\$200 million) last year and per-capita Fmk2 billion (\$287 million) in 1984-85.

Just over a year ago it appeared that the bubble had finally burst. At the December 1983 auctions fur prices plummeted to a record low and Finnish farmers

many burdened by ambitious new investments — were forced to cut output to try to boost prices. "Everyone was afraid there could be a catastrophe for fox furs," says Mr. Roger Nyback, managing director of Oy Keppo Ab, which runs the world's biggest fur farming operation from Oravais in western Finland. "We cut production by about 20 per cent in 1983 to try to get world prices up."

Helped by the strength of the U.S. dollar and the recovery of the world economy, the strategy is working. The Finnish fur industry has won sufficient confidence and size over the last decade to enable it to shift its international auctions to Helsinki and away from Copenhagen.

More than 500 buyers from around the world turned up for the independent Helsinki auction in January. With purchases worth more than Fmk600 million they created the world's highest fur auction to date, overshadowing Copenhagen and pushing prices steeply upwards.

"In the 1982-83 season there was a crisis in the fur producing industry," said Mr. Johan Wallin, marketing manager of Finnish Fur Sales, a company owned cooperatively by the country's more than 5,600 fur farmers. "Prices were below production costs. With those prices the industry would not have survived."

"Production has not been increased, however, the market has improved, and there has been a quick recovery. They are not super profits, but the farmers can make normal returns again."

The anti-fur lobby has made no impact on sales, at least from the Helsinki auctions, says Johan Moisanen, managing director of Finnish Fur Sales.

Opposition to the fur business is much harder to find in Scandinavia than in the U.K. or some continental European countries. The Fur Auction Centre has seen none of the demonstrations witnessed in London, but he admits that continued large-scale actions could eventually hit the international fur trade.

"It is so easy to manipulate people in the cities," says Mr. Moisanen. "They have never seen a cow or a horse. People here live more closely to nature, they understand that we have a very cold climate, they are used to handling animals, they know how they are looked after and how they are killed."

For the moment, according to Mr. Wallin, "demand is coming very much from the U.S. More money is being spent on furs and the business climate is in our favour again. Attitudes have changed. People are buying furs again; it is acceptable to wear a fur jacket; people don't all have to look the same any more."

With fur back in fashion and more money available, blue fox furs were fetching Fmk383 per skin in Helsinki in January compared

with Fmk234 in December 1983.

Buyers from Italy, Greece and Spain have all been more active, but it is the Far East that has emerged as a mainstay of Finnish fur sales alongside the U.S. Japan took 16 per cent of fox sales in 1983-84 and South Korea 12 per cent, while Hong Kong accounted for 13 per cent of Finnish mink sales.

For the foxes and mink moving agitatedly around their cages — for much of the winter in sub-zero temperatures — on the farms of western Finland, life is short. The breeding animals are paired in March, the embryos are born in May and little more than six months later they are slaughtered and the pelts prepared for the December and January auctions. The skinned animals are recycled with other offal for next year's feed.

The fur farming industry is concentrated to an extraordinary extent in the single western province of Vaasa along the coast of the Gulf of Bothnia. Some of the farming is done on an industrial scale by companies such as Keppo, which alone produces around 350,000 mink and 90,000 fox skins a year, but most of the farms are small family affairs. The average farm produces around 1,600 pelts a year, about a third of which are fox furs.

Farmers' willingness to pool their resources has contributed to the industry's recent growth. Through regional co-operatives they have formed a jointly-owned breeders association which provides schooling, veterinary, insurance

and financial advice and carries out joint research into improved breeding techniques and feed analysis.

The farmers own Finnish Fur Sales, which arranges the auctions, advance financing and common marketing. They own Ostrobothnia Furs, which acts as a purchasing company for feed and equipment and they operate around 50 big central feed kitchens.

Finnish fur producers have one important Achilles heel, however. Production of animals has now surpassed domestic supplies of feed — the industry's raw material. A subsidiary of Ostrobothnia Furs has been established in Fraserburgh in north-east Scotland for the freezing and storage of fish offal to secure new supplies.

"Mink output has reached a ceiling in Finland," says Roger Nyback. "We are not very competitive, especially with Denmark. Their fish and slaughter offal is 10-20 per cent cheaper."

Small farmers must live with the higher feed prices, but industrial farmers such as Keppo have already abandoned any idea of expanding in Finland. In the early 1960s Keppo started farming mink in Ireland to gain access to raw feed supplies, and since 1980 it has been farming Norwegian blue foxes south of Dublin. "Demand in Canada or France will be where the next expansion of fur farming takes place," says Mr. Nyback. "Ireland is today a more profitable operation than Finland." — Financial Times news feature.

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KANISA

Navratilova beats Lloyd, gets 33-31 edge over rival

DALLAS (R) — Martina Navratilova used her serve-and-volley game to full advantage Sunday to beat Chris Evert Lloyd 6-4, 6-4 in one of the finest matches the two have played against each other in recent years.

Navratilova broke Evert's serve four times to win the championship match and \$28,000 in one hour and 33 minutes.

Lloyd said the serves were the margin of victory for Navratilova Sunday.

"That's what it came down to. I hit my groundies well and I had a few aces (advantages), but she came up with aces. She served really well when she needed a point, and my serve let me down, especially in the first set."

"Once the rally started, we were

pretty evenly matched. But her serve was powerful, placed well, and she came up big with it when she needed it," Lloyd said.

Navratilova broke serve for a 3-1 lead, slicing a backhand winner right on the sideline. Lloyd broke back to make it 4-3 with a sharp return and a patented passing shot. But Navratilova broke right back in a four-deuce game, stepping into Lloyd's second serve and forcing a short lob which she decisively put away.

Navratilova broke serve twice

in the second set for a 5-2 lead, and each time it was a passing shot that supplied the key point, as Lloyd took chances coming in that she does not usually take against other players.

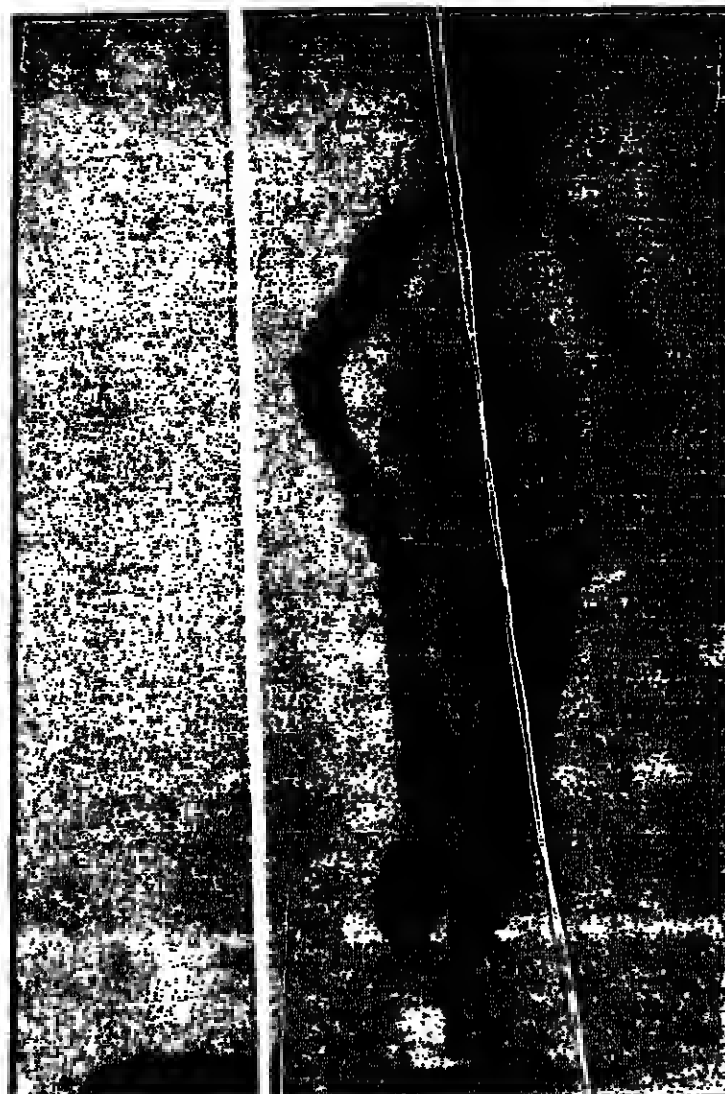
"It's difficult when she serves so well," Lloyd said. "I have to take more chances, more than I would against anyone else. I make more winners, but I make more errors, too."

Lloyd momentarily staved off the inevitable with a service break, but Navratilova served a very strong game at 5-4 to end it.

"I got up for the big points and concentrated well," Navratilova said. "When I had to, I hit the serve better and hit the volley better. It was a tight match throughout."

Navratilova, stung by three unexpected defeats in her last seven tournaments, will be hoping that her recent form improvement will be maintained when she defends her singles title in the \$500,000 Women's Winter Circuit Tennis Championships this week.

Navratilova blames the three losses at least partly on the fact that she should have started wearing glasses long before the Dallas women's Grand Prix tournament.



Portugal's Carlos Lopes will attempt to retain cross country title on Sunday in Lisbon.

Lopes' career reads like a Hollywood script

By Neil Oughton
Rover

LONDON — Hollywood scriptwriters would struggle to concoct a tale laced with more individual suffering, determination and ultimate elation than the career of Carlos Lopes.

The diminutive Portuguese has known them all over the last 20 years in a career which has scaled peaks of athletic triumph and plunged him into troughs of despair.

Championship medals, world class times, crippling injuries and retirement. Lopes has won them, set them and endured them.

But in true Hollywood style, he returned to the sport and completed an emotional comeback last year by winning gold in the marathon at the Los Angeles Olympics.

It was only the second time the 37-year-old Lopes completed the distance and was a fitting triumph in Hollywood's backyard.

On Sunday Lopes attempts to reach another milestone in his career by attempting to retain the men's World Cross Country Championship in front of his own adoring fans in Lisbon.

And he is quick to refute suggestions that the race will be his swansong. The astonishing Portuguese is considering defending his marathon title at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Lopes, chasing his third win in the event, would not be the first man to retain the cross country title. But the significance of his victory would be that it followed nine years after his first triumph in Chepstow, Wales.

His win then at the age of 29 marked Lopes' arrival on the world stage of athletics. He had emerged on the Portuguese national scene 10 years earlier when he finished third in the national junior Cross Country Championship and ran in his nation's colours for the first time a few weeks later.

He had been running little more than a year after leaving school at the age of 12 to start work in a steel factory.

But his track progress was slow and, when it came, his championship debut unimpressive. Lopes finished 33rd and last in the 1971 European Championship 10,000 metres.

He failed to go beyond the heats of either the 5,000 or 10,000 metres at the Munich Olympics a year later and dropped out of the 10,000 metres at the European Championships of 1974.

But the Portuguese government came to his aid in 1975 by finding him and other leading athletes jobs which allowed them plenty of time to train. Lopes began work in the bank where he is still employed and the change quickly paid dividends.

He left for Chepstow hoping to finish in the top 10 only to come home 16 seconds clear and win his first major title.

Five months later he produced a superbly aggressive front running performance to take the 10,000 metres silver medal behind Finland's Lasse Viren at the Montreal Olympics.

But before the year was out, Lopes' Olympic glory was being overshadowed by injury. A series of persistent problems, including Achilles' tendinitis, plagued his progress and he disappeared from world prominence — and actually announced his retirement — before the end of 1976.

But he continued running and surfaced occasionally. In 1977 he recovered sufficiently to take second place behind Leon Schots of Belgium in the World Cross Country Championship but then missed the entire year's track season.

For the next five years he struggled against his tendon problems before finding a cure in acupuncture. Then, in 1982, he made a remarkable return to the track in Oslo, clocking 27 minutes 24.39 seconds — then a European record — and second fastest time ever.

Within weeks he lined up in Athens for the European Championship 10,000 metres final as favourite only to be outstripped in the race for the line by Italy's Alberto Tomba, East German Werner Schildhauer and Finland's Matti Vainio. He finished fourth in a time well outside his best.

Later that year Lopes turned his talents to marathon running. Though he had never covered more than 25 kms in training, Lopes covered nearly 34 kms of the New York race before withdrawing with cramp. But had done enough to convince himself he had potential over the full 42.195 kms distance.

He tried again in April, 1983, in Rotterdam finishing second in a European best of two hours eight minutes 39 seconds to Australian Rob de Castella.

With the marathon already pencilled into his Olympic plans, Lopes lifted his second cross country crown in New Jersey last March. It was a title he coveted most from a long and distinguished career, but it was to be upstaged a few months later in Los Angeles.

Lopes remained hidden among the leading pack for most of the Olympic marathon looking relaxed and confident. He made his bid for gold five kms from home and pulled away from the field to win comfortably by 35 seconds. His time of two hours nine minutes 21 seconds was an Olympic record.

Now Lopes is such a hero in his homeland that there are plans for a statue to honour him. A street has already been named after him.

WATER AUTHORITY KUFRIJIA WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT CONTRACT No. K3/76/85

1- The Water Authority invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to submit bid for the supply and construction of Kufrijia treatment plant.

Contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan must be prequalified as General Class Water and Sewerage, Building, Road, or Electro-Mechanical Contractors by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan.

Foreign bidders are strongly recommended to associate with such local contractors.

Jordanian General Class Contractors, bidding as prime contractors, must associate with a qualified foreign specialist firm.

The project consists of the following major structures and facilities:

Headworks, administration building, Imhoff tank, biofilters, clarifiers, recycle pumping station, polishing pond, chlorination system, sludge drying beds and irrigation pump station, equipment and system.

2- A prebid conference will be held on Saturday April 20th, 1985 beginning at 9:00 hours at the office of the Water Authority.

3- On April 20th, 1985 contractors or joint ventures shall submit in a sealed envelope in person or by mail the information on the firm or on the firms of the joint venture requested in the instructions to bidders. The information will be evaluated and contractors will be informed whether or not to submit a bid.

4- The bids are due not later than 12:00 noon, Jordan local time on Saturday May 4th, 1985 at the office of the Water Authority.

5- Contract documents may be examined and purchased at the following address:

Water Authority
Jabel Hussein
Nablus Street
P.O. Box (2412),
Amman, Jordan

Telephone: 666111
Telex: 22439 WAJ JO

The cost of the initial copy of the contract documents purchased by a bidder is JD 100 per set, and the cost of any additional copies of the contract documents by a bidder is JD 50 per set. No refunds will be made for the return of full or partial sets of contract documents. Copies of the contract documents will be sent to prospective bidders by the Water Authority upon receipt of the proper amount in a bank cheque.

Eng. M.S. Kilani
President
Water Authority

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Iraq defeats Lebanon

KUWAIT (R) — Iraq beat Lebanon 6-0 (halftime 3-0) in a World Cup Asian Group One Sub-Group B qualifying soccer match here Monday.

Iraq beat Lebanon 6-0 in the first leg, also played here last Friday.

Bruno to challenge Sweden's Eklund

LONDON (AP) — British heavyweight boxer Frank Bruno Monday was named as official challenger to European Champion Anders Eklund of Sweden.

Eklund took the title from Norway's Steffen Tangstad in the Danish capital Copenhagen earlier this month.

LOST REPORT

My Bangladesh passport No. C077080 issued at Sylhet has been lost while I was going to Sevilla from Salt on 17-3-1985.

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مكتبة الأمل

Gromyko confirms Gorbachev's top role under Chernenko

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko's nominating speech for Mr. Mikhail S. Gorbachev gave him a ringing endorsement by the full politburo and confirmed he ran the ruling body at times before Konstantin U. Chernenko died, official documents show.

Mr. Gromyko's speech marked a show of public backing from a primary representative of the older generation for the first Kremlian leader of the post-war generation. I urged the Communist Party to close ranks behind Mr. Gorbachev because "political enemies" are seeking cracks in party solidarity.

The speech was published for the first time in an official brochure on the party central committee meeting that made Mr. Gorbachev general secretary a week ago. A copy of the brochure was obtained Monday.

The booklet showed Mr. Gorbachev opened the meeting with a memorial to Chernenko and then turned it over to Mr. Gromyko for the nomination speech.

Mr. Gromyko's address seemed intended to dampen any opposition to Mr. Gorbachev among the party "old guard," and quash any public speculation that the older members of the politburo

were not behind him.

"The politburo has unanimously decided to recommend that you elect Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev as general secretary," said Mr. Gromyko, who stressed several times that the politburo decision was unanimous.

He then outlined what he said was a politburo discussion of the question of who would succeed Chernenko, who died March 10, 1985.

"All of the activity of Mikhail Sergeevich in the carrying out of our internal and foreign policies confirms that he is worthy to be elected general secretary," Mr. Gromyko said.

During Chernenko's 13-month tenure, Mr. Gorbachev was widely viewed as the second most powerful man in the Kremlin, and some reports said he ran the politburo during Chernenko's summer vacation and then during the prolonged winter illness that finally killed him.

Mr. Gromyko's speech confirmed that view.

It revealed for the first time that Mr. Gorbachev was "in charge" of the central committee secretariat and also confirmed that Mr. Gorbachev "chaired meetings of the politburo in the absence of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko."

"He performed, without any exaggeration, brilliantly," Mr. Gromyko said.

That was the only reference to Chernenko in Mr. Gromyko's 1,100-word speech.

This contrasted sharply with the speech delivered by Premier Nikolai A. Tikhonov in February 1984 to nominate Chernenko as party leader succeeding the late Yuri V. Andropov. Mr. Tikhonov devoted half of his talk to eulogising the late party chief.

Mr. Gromyko's speech focused entirely on the new leader, reinforcing the air of speed and decisiveness with which Mr. Gorbachev came to power.

Calling Mr. Gorbachev a "man of principle and of strong convictions," Mr. Gromyko praised the new leader's ability to analyse problems and come to a rapid, correct course.

Mr. Gromyko, who was said to have become the prime architect of Soviet foreign policy under

Chernenko, also praised Mr. Gorbachev's talents in the sphere of foreign affairs.

"He very well and very quickly catches the gist of events which are occurring outside our country in the international arena," he said. "I myself was often astonished by his ability to quickly and precisely strike to the heart of the matter and make conclusions — correct conclusions, party conclusions."

Mr. Gromyko also praised Mr. Gorbachev's organisational ability, the strength with which he stands by his convictions and the higher education that sets him apart from his predecessor.

Finally, he called on the party to rally behind the new leader.

"We live in a world in which different kinds of telescopes, and there are quite a few of them, are aimed at the Soviet Union," he said.

"They are trying to see how to find some kinds of cracks in the Soviet leadership ... somewhere abroad, they are longing to see differences among the Soviet leaders ... the unanimous opinion of the politburo is that this time, we the central committee, the Communist Party and the politburo will not give our political enemies that pleasure."



GUARD OF HONOUR: His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Monday review a guard of honour following Mr. Mubarak's arrival in Jordan (Petra photo)

Lange invites nuclear-free warships

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange said Sunday he had told the United States he would welcome port calls by U.S. warships in line with his nuclear-free policy.

Mr. Lange told a news conference the invitation was formally reissued during his meeting on Friday with American Ambassador Monroe Browne. There had been no immediate response from Washington.

He said the invitation could be accepted in line with the Reagan administration's no comment stance on whether its ships carry nuclear weapons because about 20 per cent of the U.S. fleet "simply don't have the capacity to be nuclear-armed."

Mr. Lange added: "That is a simple fact and it would be pos-

sible to have that simple gesture to settle things down."

But Mr. Lange said he did not expect any major development in the ANZUS pact row with Washington over New Zealand's ban on port calls by warships which may carry nuclear weapons while uncertainty remained over the acceptance of U.S. missiles by Western Europe.

Mr. Lange's comments followed the disclosure by former U.S. Ambassador Ann Martindell that she had banned port calls by nuclear-armed American warships when she was ex-President Jimmy Carter's envoy to New Zealand from 1979 to 1981.

In an interview from Washington on Radio New Zealand she said she ordered the ban because of her concern that sustained

protests against the ship visits were damaging bilateral relations.

But Mr. Browne said in a statement after the broadcast that the port calls had continued throughout Ms. Martindell's tenure in keeping with the no comment policy.

It was erroneous to interpret her remarks as suggesting successive U.S. administrations had not regarded port access as essential under the ANZUS defence pact between the two countries and Australia, he said.

Mr. Lange's refusal last month to allow a visit by the U.S. destroyer Buchanan led to cancellation of joint ANZUS naval exercises between Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Queen, princess attend Cambridge revue

CAMBRIDGE, England (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II watched her 21-year-old son, Prince Edward, play several parts in a Cambridge University revue Sunday night — including a drunk and a Victorian man clad in a swimming-suit. It was the first time that the queen has seen the 21-year-old prince perform onstage since his school days and he was admittedly nervous. "I always suffer from stage fright but it's worse appearing in front of one's family," he said before the show began. Edward had appeared in the revue, Catch Me Foot, several times earlier this month. He has said he found the dance routines the hardest. The special gala performance at the Amateur Dramatic Club was sold out and raised more than £1,600 (\$1,728) for charity. The queen, wearing a long royal blue and red silk evening gown, was accompanied by her sister, Princess Margaret, who looked tanned and well following lung surgery two months ago. Princess Margaret, 54, had a small part of her lung removed in January which tests showed was not malignant.

Soviet seaman applies for refugee status

SYDNEY (R) — A Soviet seaman who jumped ship 10 days ago in search of asylum has applied for refugee status to stay in Australia. The 40-year-old man was Monday granted a further seven days in custody on a temporary order under the migration act to give immigration officials time to consider his application. A spokesman for Immigration Minister Chris Hurford said the case had been referred to the Determination of Refugee Status (DORS) Committee.

Drug peddling pupils expelled

AUCKLAND (R) — One of New Zealand's top schools said Monday it had expelled 13 pupils for peddling marijuana and disciplined 35 others for smoking the drug. Iain Campbell, headmaster of Auckland's fee-paying Kings College, said the expelled boys were all from the two senior classes. Drug squad detectives said it was too early to say if the boys would face criminal charges.

Tebbit's wife may never walk again

LONDON (AP) — Margaret Tebbit, the British cabinet minister's wife injured by an IRA bomb blast at Brighton's Grand Hotel five months ago, may never walk again, it was reported Sunday. Mrs. Tebbit was paralysed and remains a patient in Stoke Mandeville Hospital, a spinal injuries centre 60 kilometres north-west of London. Britain's domestic Press Association news agency said that Mrs. Tebbit has been visiting the homes of friends as she recovers from her injuries and has been able to dine in restaurants and go for drives in the country. "But doctors are said to be not optimistic that she will be able to walk again. She is being taught in the hospital how to deal with her handicap," the agency said. Norman Tebbit, secretary for trade and industry, who will be 54 this month, visits his wife several times a week and he has largely recovered from his own injuries sustained in the Oct. 12, 1984 blast. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomb during the Conservative Party's annual conference failed to kill Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher or any member of her cabinet, but five other persons died and 31 were injured.

48 rescued from sunken boat

KEY LARGO, Florida (AP) — Private boats rescued 48 people on a diving cruise whose boat sank Sunday in 25 feet of water, the Coast Guard said. The 60-foot Cap'n Crunch was carrying members of a diving class, many of whom were in the water, when it sank, leaving the pilot house, said Coast Guard Lt. Jim Simpson. Members of the party secured a line to the nearby molasses reef so those in the water could hang on and keep from drifting away in the strong current and 4-to-6-foot waves, said Simpson. Several private vessels in the area helped rescue passengers and crew, Simpson said. He did not know if there were any injuries.

Bhopal tank that leaked gas uncovered

BHOPAL, India (R) — Investigators probing the world's worst industrial disaster have uncovered the steel tank from which poisonous gas leaked last December, killing 2,500 people, police said.

Excavation work began last week and the tank has been freed of its casing of concrete, sand and charcoal, police in this central Indian city told Reuters.

On Dec. 3, deadly methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the tank at a pesticides factory of the Indian subsidiary of the U.S. Union Carbide Company. About 125,000 people were injured in the leak.

Police said officials from India's Central Bureau of Investigation were exploring ways of opening the tank to establish precisely how the leak occurred.

Scientists have said entry of water into the tank may have set off a violent chemical reaction, forcing liquid methyl isocyanate stored there to burst through a safety valve in gas form.

They have said the tank, partly

buried below ground, was now likely to contain a plastic sludge that could yield clues as to how the tragedy happened.

Police threw a cordon around the pesticides plant as workers broke through the concrete casing to expose the blackened exterior of the tank. Its steel walls had buckled, apparently under immense pressure when the gas escaped.

Three broad steel rings secured the tank to its concrete base. Alongside was a refrigeration plant designed to keep the highly-volatile methyl isocyanate cool.

In the United States, several lawyers have filed lawsuits seeking billions of dollars in compensation from Union Carbide. The pre-trial hearing has been set for April 16 before a New York district court judge.

A senior Indian official has said his government was prepared to consider foregoing litigation for an out-of-court settlement.

"If there is good compensation we are prepared to go in for an out-of-court settlement," Minister for Law Ashoke Sen told

Reuters last week.

Washington public interest lawyer Robert Hager said in an interview in Delhi Sunday that a just settlement of claims for compensation could amount to as much as \$10 billion.

In New Delhi, Agriculture Minister Buta Singh told parliament Monday the gas leak caused fish to become anaemic, stunted the growth of trees and reduced milk production from animals.

Presenting a detailed report prepared by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, he said traces of the gas had been found in trees, fruit and vegetables.

"While most vegetables recovered in the course of time, some have still not regenerated," Mr. Singh said.

More than 1,040 animals within a four kilometre radius of the plant had died and 7,000 had been given medical care, he said.

"Animals were ill even eight days after the leak, with breathing difficulties and a drastic drop in milk production," he said.

4 hurt in Bangladesh bomb blast

DHAKA (R) — At least four people have been injured by bomb attacks in Bangladesh as the country prepares for a controversial referendum on the rule and policies of military President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, police said Monday.

Police said two people were injured after three bombs went off Sunday night near the presidential palace in Dhaka. Two more were wounded in explosions about the same time in the southern port city of Chittagong.

No one has claimed responsibility for the explosions, but police sources told Reuters it could be the work of dissidents who are still trying to stop the March 21 referendum.

The referendum was called by Gen. Ershad after he cancelled a parliamentary election and tightened martial law over an opposition refusal to take part in the polls.

Gen. Ershad has said a confidence vote in the plebiscite would give him a mandate to pursue his policies and continue as a military ruler until parliamentary elections were held to help form a civilian government.

A martial law order has banned criticism of the referendum but said support for the polls would be encouraged.

Police have taken more than 100 political leaders into custody and placed two main opposition leaders, Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wazed, under house arrest.

Some opposition leaders who are still in hiding to avoid arrest told Reuters by telephone that the referendum was an attempt to legitimise Gen. Ershad's rule.

They said the two alliances of 22 parties had already called for a general strike on March 21 appealed to the people to boycott the referendum.

Gen. Ershad told a public rally outside Dhaka Monday that soon after the referendum he would start a fresh dialogue with politicians aimed at organising elections.

He said he would stay politically neutral even if he won a mandate in the referendum, but warned that politicians would have to behave properly to create conditions for the return of democracy.

Three Taiwanese gangsters have been indicted for killing Henry Liu, a stern critic of Taiwan, in California last October.

Two are to appear in a Taipei court on Wednesday for trial. The third, who fled to the Philippines, will be tried in absentia.

Chen Chi-Li, 41, boss of the Bamboo Union Gang, told official investigators he was trained and ordered to kill Mr. Liu by the bureau.

Justice Minister Shih Chi-Yang has said the bureau admitted hiring Chen to spy against China, but it had denied ordering him to kill anyone.

The indictment said the three intelligence officers had met Chen several times before he went to the United States last September. Officials said Vice-Admiral

Explosion rocks building with Israeli, Canadian embassies in Singapore

SINGAPORE (R) — An explosion believed to have been caused by a bomb shook a building housing the Israeli and Canadian diplomatic missions, but no one was injured, police said Monday.

Officials said the blast occurred shortly before midnight on the ground floor of a 12-storey building in a tourist area.

It chirped away a small section

of a marble wall beneath a window where the explosive device was believed to have been planted.

Upper floor windows, aluminum awnings and the glass doors of a local bank on the first floor were also shattered in the blast.

Investigator Gurdev Singh told Reuters police had not received any calls claiming responsibility

and no tenants have reported any threats.

The Canadian mission is located on the eight to 10th floors while the Israeli mission is on the 11th.

Western diplomats speculated the Israeli embassy might have been the target, but a police spokesman said: "We're still looking at the motive or who is the object."

SWAPO to get more aid from China

PEKING (R) — Visiting SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma said Monday China had agreed to increase its aid to his Namibian guerrilla movement and described the Peking leadership as "friends in arms."

Mr. Nujoma attacked the United States for its opposition to economic sanctions against Pretoria.

Asked whether China's growing ties with Washington would affect its support for SWAPO, Mr. Nujoma said: "The Chinese ... still support us and in fact are increasing assistance to us."

"Reagan's assistance goes to the Boers (South Africans) who

are suppressing us," he added.

Communist Party Chief Hu Yaobang, Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian and other leaders had pledged continued material, political and diplomatic support to SWAPO, Mr. Nujoma said.

SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation) has been fighting for the last 19 years to wrest control of Namibia from South Africa.

Mr. Nujoma told a news conference: "We leave the People's Republic of China greatly encouraged in our struggle. We have true friends, friends in arms."

He declined to give details of

Chinese military or financial aid.

Mr. Nujoma dismissed the argument that international sanctions against South Africa would harm the black population.

"We are the dispossessed people of Namibia and South Africa. How can economic sanctions hurt us?" he asked.

"Economic sanctions by imperialists work against Iran, Poland, Argentina ... but when it comes to the white racist regime of South Africa it is the other way round," he added.

Mr. Nujoma, who arrived in Peking last week, declined to give details of his travel plans.

Taiwan to try 3 murder suspects in public

TAIPEI (R) — Three Taiwan intelligence officers implicated in the murder of a Chinese-American writer will be tried soon by a military tribunal in public, Foreign Minister Chu Fu-Sung said Monday.

Mr. Chu told parliament the trial of the three, including the head of Taiwan's Military Intelligence Bureau Vice-Admiral Wang Hsi-Ling, would be the first military tribunal case in Taiwan's history not held in camera.

He did not say what charges the officers would face or when proceedings would begin.

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The third, who fled to the Philippines, will be tried in absentia.

Chen Chi-Li, 41, boss of the Bamboo Union Gang, told official investigators he was trained and ordered to kill Mr. Liu by the bureau.

Justice Minister Shih Chi-Yang has said the bureau admitted hiring Chen to spy against China, but it had denied ordering him to kill anyone.

The indictment said the three intelligence officers had met Chen several times before he went to the United States last September. Officials said Vice-Admiral

Wang and his two subordinates were being questioned by military prosecutors.

Political analysts said the government's decision to try the three officers in public was apparently aimed at silencing its critics. Opposition sources earlier said the public might not learn the whole truth if they were tried secretly.

They said the government wanted to demonstrate that it was not involved in the murder.

The foreign minister admitted that the case had caused "some frustrations" in U.S.-Taiwan relations but said Taiwan could contain the damage by handling the trials fairly.

Poison candy gang threatens to do 'something big'

TOKYO (R) — The candy poisoners who have baffled Japan's police and cost confectionery makers billions of yen have marked the first anniversary of their appearance by threatening to do "something big."

The threat was made in a letter, one of numerous messages, some cryptic, others mocking, which the elusive gang has sent to companies and the press since kidnapping the head of a major candy firm one year ago Monday.

"The man with 21 faces", as the gang calls itself after a 1930s mystery novel, has regularly hit the headlines since then, bounding candy firms and embarrassing the police.

Five major food makers have received letters from the gang demanding money, backed up by the threat — sometimes carried out — that it will poison the firm's products and replace them on supermarket shelves.

The letter found Sunday at Osaka Castle was typical of the gang's cryptic style. "We are going to do something big by summer," Kyodo News Agency quoted it as saying.

Despairing police chiefs have sent thousands of men to check candy shelves or make house-to-house enquiries. Once they set a trap that failed, apparently because of lack of teamwork between local police and a special squad from outside the area.

Threatened companies have seen sales and profits slump and their share prices tumble on the stock market. Some have laid off staff or withdrawn their goods from shops, others have resorted to selling "factory-fresh" goods from pavement stalls. They all say they have refused to meet the gang's demands.

The Mainichi Daily News said Monday a private survey had shown Japan's confectionery sales

fell last year for the first time since 1945 and five firms were driven into bankruptcy.

Previous letters from the gang have mocked the police for their inability to catch them. "How long can you go on mobilising 40,000 men?" asked one letter. "It's a battle of endurance. Why don't you give up?"

Another message announced the gang's return after a relaxing New Year holiday at a hot spring resort, and set a 1985 extortion target of 1.3 billion yen (\$5.2 million).

So far every poisoned sweet has been labelled "poisoned" before being replaced on shop shelves and none has been eaten. Police scientists say each one contained a carefully measured lethal dose of sodium cyanide.

The ease with which the gang appears to operate has led to a rash of imitators, including two teenage boys who demanded

450,000 yen (\$1,800) from a coffee company.

The boys, who were caught collecting the cash from a mailbox, wanted to spend it on a personal computer.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has praised candy firms for refusing to bow to the extortionists' demands. The ruling Liberal Democrats plan to submit a draft law to parliament soon laying down stiff penalties for poisoning food for public sale and compelling extortion victims to report to the police.

Police say they believe the gang members live in Western Japan's densely populated Kansai area, have regular jobs and operate mainly at weekends.

But the simplicity of this type of crime seems to leave the police helpless, and they can do little but hope the gang makes a mistake before carrying out its latest threat.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q1 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠AKJ62 ♥AQ5 076 ♠AQJ
 What is your opening bid?
 Q2 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠Q6 ♥Q93 ♦10982 ♠9765
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
 3 ♠ Pass ?
 What action do you take?
 Q3 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠J6 ♥J10 ♠AQ876 ♠A972
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
 3 ♠ Pass ?
 What do you bid now?
 Q4 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠AKQ8 ♥8 ♠A98 ♠AK553
 The bidding has proceeded:

East South West North
 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠
 Pass ?
 What do you bid now?
 Q5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠AQ ♥K103 ♠AKJ76 ♠Q98
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
 2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
 What do you bid now?
 Q6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠A76 ♥AQJ987 ♠6 ♠853
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♥ 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
 3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
 4 ♥ Pass 5 ♥ Pass
 ?
 What action do you take?

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